

Bay Area Reporter

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395 NINTH ST., SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94103

AmFAR Predicts \$4M Shortfall in '96

by Dennis Conkin

The American Foundation for AIDS Research (AmFAR) announced this week that it will restructure programs and reduce the size of its research grants because of a \$4 million shortfall in projected revenues.

The agency has downsized its project-

ed 1996 budget from \$20 million to \$16 million to cover the anticipated cash shortfall, said Dr. Mervyn Silverman, AmFAR executive director.

The cuts are slated for the July 1 beginning of the 1996 fiscal year.

"It's becoming increasingly difficult to raise money for AIDS research programs because of growing complacency and a sense of resignation about the epidemic," Silverman said.

AmFAR is the leading national non-

profit organization dedicated to basic AIDS biomedical and clinical research, AIDS prevention, and public policy advocacy.

Since 1985 AmFAR has distributed more than \$77 million in grants, to more than 1,600 AIDS research projects. The foundation is funded solely by private contributions.

"AIDS is no longer viewed as an emergency by people who are not directly affected by it," Silverman said.

He said some donors report that they are so overwhelmed by the plethora of AIDS organizations asking for cash that they've decided to stop making contributions, because they just don't know which agencies are truly effective.

Scheduling conflicts with event planners also mean that anticipated cash from projected (but now cancelled) events won't be forthcoming — and the talent pool of celebrities willing to become

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Photo: Rick Gerhardt

Tie Me Up, Tie Me Down

The always provocative Lesbian Avengers show their frustration with the boys in blue and SFPD violence and the OCC's non-response to it with a March 28 demo prior to the Board of Supervisors hearing on police discipline policies.

Migden Calls Crypto Hearing, Will Introduce Safety Resolution



Allen Harris

by Kent Brandley

San Franciscans packed public Health, Public Safety and Environment Committee hearing called by Supervisor Carole Migden Tuesday, March 28 to determine whether there is a possible health hazard posed by Cryptosporidium in the San Francisco water supply.

After the meeting Migden indicated she would introduce a resolution next Monday, April 3 to urge Mayor Frank Jordan and the Public Utilities Commission to increase efforts to

maintain the highest quality of water in the city and to notify the public of possible dangers.

Migden's office indicated that part of her concern was due to recent proposals by Congressional Republicans to ease restrictions to the Federal Clean Water Act — which might allow such parasites to go undetected and contaminate water sources here — and her proposal was drafted after the supervisor learned the water plant in Sunol suffered two treatment failures last week without sufficient warning

Continued on page 17

SM County AIDS Program Offices Have New Location

The administration and community services offices of San Mateo County AIDS Program are relocating. Beginning this Monday, April 3, they will be located at 66 Bovet Road, Suite 270, in San Mateo.

The move includes the AIDS program director, volunteer resources coordinator, community affairs coordinator, prevention services, epidemiology services, HIV testing information, and administrative and fiscal services.

All telephone and fax numbers will remain the same during and after the relocation, administrators said. ▼

■ If you have questions about the relocation, call (415) 573-3955.

Good News From Big List Country: Montana Backs Down on Threat To Make Gays Register

by Dennis Conkin

On Wednesday, March 22 the Montana State Senate voted to require lesbians and gays convicted of violating the state's sodomy law to register as homosexuals with law enforcement officials. Following a firestorm of criticism from around the country, however, the legislature reversed its plans the next day.

group, responded.

Bishop later retracted the comments, claiming they were said in "the heat of debate."

"I never intended, nor meant to infer [sic], that consensual sex acts between adults of the same sex are in the same category as violent sexual acts. I regret that I made the statement," he said.

Following the reversal of the anti-gay legislation — which originally passed by a 41-8 vote — it was widely reported that Bishop authored the measure at the behest of Pat Robertson's Christian Coalition.

Local response

The anti-gay measure drew a fast — and furious — response from Bay Area elected officials, including State Senator Milton Marks and Mayor Frank Jordan.

"I'm always hesitant to speak on behalf of San Francisco when it concerns another state's affairs," Jordan said, "but this measure was just so wrong that I had to speak out strongly against it."

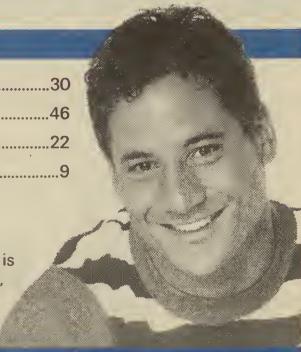
"The measure was appalling," said Carol Stuart, Marks's press liaison. "We're glad they deep-sixed it, because it was so patently unconstitutional that it was absurd."

The measure was also criticized by national lesbian and gay leaders including National

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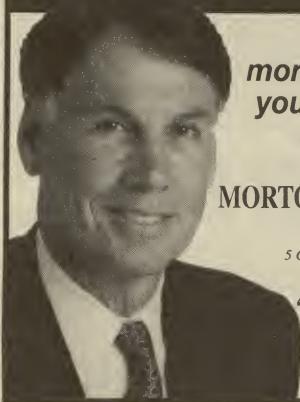
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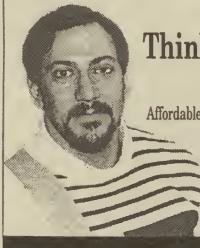
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COMMUNITY NEWS

Tenderloin Blast Decision To Award Shanti A.I.D.S. Contracts

by Dennis Conkin

The city's HIV Health Services Planning Council voted on Monday, March 27 to approve a plan by AIDS Indigent Direct Services — which is going out of business — to turn over its city contract for AIDS services to Shanti Project.

The Planning Council vote took place after more than an hour of discussion that included protests from an A.I.D.S. client, a volunteer, and a worker who charged the decision was made without input from either staff or clients.

Several Tenderloin area AIDS service providers and community leaders at the meeting also protested the decision to award the contracts to Shanti.

Tenderloin AIDS Resource Center Executive Director Brian Cross told the *Bay Area Reporter* that the decision was "appalling" and done without consulting existing community service providers, and said TARC and other service providers were shut out of the process.

"We demand that an open process be established to assure continuity of services and reflect the natural and established collaboration and cooperation by long established Tenderloin service providers," Cross said.

Representatives from Lutheran Social Service, San Francisco Network Ministries, and the Brothers Network, other longtime Tenderloin AIDS service providers, also supported Cross's statement and called for a "community-based process" with competitive bidding for the contract.

Black Coalition on AIDS leader and Planning Council member Gerald Lenoir openly questioned Shanti's fiscal ability to manage the contract.

He pointed out the agency still owed the city's

Health Department an estimated \$300,000 in repayment for misspent AIDS Housing services money.

Shanti director Gloria Sandoval said the agency was currently seeking arbitration with its former accountant over the issue; Shanti charges malpractice by its accountant in not catching the misapplication of the funds.

AIDS Office director Mitch Katz, M.D. told the council that Shanti has passed stringent audits for the last two years; that he believed that the agency's contract compliance problems had been long resolved; and that he believed they were caused by malpractice on the part of Shanti's accountants.

Sandoval told the meeting that Shanti could provide the services to clients and that it would rehire most — but not all — of the former A.I.D.S. workers.

Following discussion of the issue, the planning council voted approval of the agency's decision to turn its contracts over to Shanti until April 1996.

After that time the contract for services will be put out for competitive bid.

Cross and other activists, including longtime Tenderloin community organizer and A.I.D.S. staffer Jacquie Hansen and activist Hank Wilson, reiterated that the move was a unilateral decision of the A.I.D.S. board, and was done without consulting or seeking input from clients, workers, or neighborhood leaders. ▼

Progressive Way Seeks Queer Member Groups—And Quickly!

by Kent Brandley

The deadline is approaching for progressive nonprofit organizations to apply to The Progressive Way for membership and funding. The umbrella group that operates somewhat like the United Way — as a federation of nonprofit organizations raising funds through workplace payroll deduction campaigns — is "seeking applications for membership from lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgender/queer organizations working for social change," according to TPW Executive Director Jim Shattuck.

Each year TPW considers membership applications from a wide variety of social action nonprofits in the greater Bay Area. Target groups that make up the focus of member organization recruitment for 1995 are those that serve queer community concerns, Asian-American

concerns, the concerns of youth, and/or are located in Contra Costa County and Santa Clara County, Shattuck said.

TPW member groups are the kind that are usually too "hot" for the United Way to handle; as Membership Committee Review Panel Chair Cecile Isaacs put it, they are "typically hard-to-fund activist programs working to change the system."

"The Progressive Way offers community groups with strong opinions access to a market usually reserved for middle-of-the-road health and human service groups," Shattuck explained. "By providing employees an alternative when giving at the office, TPW is expanding the pool of resources available to progressive nonprofits."

And that notion has proved popular with donors, according to Shattuck. During the past few years, as donations to United

Way have fallen off or remained static, annual campaign totals for TPW have increased as much as 23 percent.

In fact, Shattuck said, fundraising through the Progressive Way has expanded every year since its beginning.

In 1994 the organization raised \$120,000.

"The 41 organizations under the Progressive Way umbrella are addressing the root causes of discrimination and injustice," Shattuck said. "By going to the source of the problem we can reduce the need for social services in the long run."

Organizations that are interested in joining TPW must submit an application by next Friday, April 8 to be considered. ▼

■ For an application or more information, call the Progressive Way office at (510) 839-6786.

Alexander Hamilton Post Annual Feed Need: Volunteers

Organizers of American Legion Alexander Hamilton Post 448's Great Annual Spaghetti Dinner, scheduled for 7 p.m. on Thursday, April 20, have issued a call for member volunteers to help organize and serve the feast. Servers, cleaners, and piano players are among the volunteers needed, according to First Vice Commander Warren Kopp.

The annual event, to be held in Room 207 of the War Memorial Veterans Building locat-

ed across from City Hall on Van Ness Avenue, will feature James C. Hormel as guest speaker. Hormel will represent the U.S. at the United Nations Conference on Human Rights in Geneva, Switzerland in April. ▼

■ For more information, or to volunteer, call Warren Kopp at (415) 474-8408.



Photo: Rick Gerharter

Homo Home Girls

For over a year, the Atre-divas, a beauty drag queen show, has been running after hours at the often wild and woolly Esta Noche on 16th Street. Door proceeds go to the programs of the Proyecto Contrasida por Vida, and the performers always bring in a full house.

Kramer, Fauci To Appear at May 5 Project Inform Benefit

Ten Years of Service in AIDS War; What Lies Ahead?

by Kent Brandley

Dr. Anthony Fauci and Larry Kramer will be featured at a May 5 fundraising dinner at the Hyatt Regency commemorating the tenth anniversary of Project Inform.

Kramer, founder of ACT UP and co-founder of Gay Men's Health Crisis in New York City; author; playwright; screenwriter; producer; and tireless AIDS activist, and Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases of the National Institutes of Health, will join Project Inform's founder Martin Delaney to speak about the past ten years and discuss what lies ahead, both for the organization and the epidemic.

In an interview with the *Bay Area Reporter*, Kramer said he had not determined what he would say at the fundraiser.

"I'm going to say what has to be said," he said, indicating that might change with ongoing developments.

But, he said, his remarks "will certainly encompass a tribute to the tireless and inspirational efforts of Martin Delaney ... an old friend and a great hero of mine."

Co-chairs for the event will be Steve Coulter and Betsy Pottruck. The event begins with a reception at 6 p.m., followed by dinner at 7 p.m.



Larry Kramer

Project Inform spokesperson Tom Teasley told the *B.A.R.* the respected national organization has a three-fold mission — "To inform the HIV infected and all those at risk of lifesaving strategies of early diagnosis and intervention; to give individuals and their physicians the means to make informed choices about the most promising treatment options; and to change research and regulatory policies which delay or prevent access to promising treatments" — and said it provides its services free of charge. The organization depends on voluntary contributions for support. Project Inform receives no government funding. ▼

■ For more information on Project Inform and the May 5 fundraising event, call Tom Teasley at (415) 558-8669.

Gay Kids Camp

by Pete Hodgdon

Summer camp and some aren't, and gay kids in the Bay Area got to find out who is and isn't when they took a camping trip to Mount Tam and Muir Woods on Saturday, March 25.

The trip, sponsored by San Francisco's Lavender Youth Recreation and Information Center (LYRIC), included a day hike and

a barbecue on Stinson beach.

According to LYRIC's Olga Texidor, trips like this are important for youth. Not only do they get to choose a destination, they also work the project through to its conclusion. "It's just a real bonding experience," she said. Members met regularly for weeks, to plan both the trip and the fundraisers to pay for the food. The remainder of

the cost will be paid by the Parks and Recreation Department.

Other upcoming LYRIC events include a spring dance and a gay skate night. The LYRIC holds regular rap groups for gay youth and operates a youth talkline. ▼

■ Contact LYRIC at (415) 863-3636.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

UC Extension Course Creates New Cyborgs

Course Helps Beginners Access HIV Info on the Internet

by Kent Brandley

"This appetite for digital data, more and faster, can now be recognized as a species need. The brain needs electrons and psychoactive chemicals like the body needs oxygen. Just as body nutritionists list our daily requirements for vitamins, will our brain-psychoneurologists soon be listing our daily requirements for various classes of digital information."

"The 'good persons' in the cybernetic society are the intelligent ones who can think for themselves. The 'problem person' in the cybernetic society of the 21st Century is the one who automatically obeys, who never questions authority, who acts to protect his/her official status, who places and politics rather than thinks independently."

— Timothy Leary in *Chaos & Cyber Culture*

The University of California Extension Center, located at 55 Laguna Street in San Francisco, invites all Bay Area residents to plug into the Internet (which it called "one of the most revolutionary developments in communication since the invention of the library and printing press" in a recent bulletin) and is willing to help make it possible for a nominal fee. Various courses will teach different types of computer users — with specific and different interests and needs — how to use customized menus to tap into the available resources.

Among the most eagerly anticipated of the courses is "The Internet: AIDS and HIV+ Resources and Support," to be taught by journalist

Gary Gach on May 8, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Room 202 of Richardson Hall at the Center. The fee is \$55.

The class helps define basic vocabulary (electronic mail, discussions, file transfers, remote logins, and information resources) for beginners, with emphasis on specific examples. According to the course description, "Internet grammar and syntax are also explored by framing net culture and etiquette in terms of appropriate issues and themes, such as anonymity, privacy, decentralization, and direct-user participation."

Students of the course will discover various ways of plugging into the most recent information about HIV and AIDS, all of which are relatively easy once mastered.

"No one on the Internet is disabled; everyone has equal access to the same vast pool of resources. You can contact volunteer communities, locally, nationally, and internationally; research alternative treatments; keep current with events and conferences; and access newsletters and legal papers," the course description says. "Or examine Peter Duesberg's HIV virus theory, and catch up with John Lauritsen on AIDS. You can also query scholars and technicians and find and search through databases."

Gach will use his five years' experience as a cybernetic (one of those who are in the fast lane of information superhighway) in other classes as well, including "The Electric Word: The Internet for the Literary Community," and "The Internet for Artists." ▶

■ To enroll, call (510) 642-4111.

What About Block Grants?

Alameda County Braces for AIDS Funding Cuts, Part II

by Mary Ann Swissler

[Editor's note: Due to an editing error, this sidebar was omitted from Mary Ann Swissler's article, "Alameda County Braces for AIDS Funding Cuts" in last week's Bay Area Reporter. Our apologies to all concerned.]

On Monday, March 20, the Department of Housing and Urban Development released a proposal to consolidate the funding and operations of more than 60 agency programs into three "block grants" awarded to states, beginning in fiscal year 1996. States would then be able to prioritize — or eliminate — the programs on the list.

The most immediate difference for housing activists applying for special programs such as AIDS housing would be a geographic lobbying shift, from a national effort to a local one, according to Katharine Gale, Housing and Community Development Specialist with Alameda County.

Eugene Richards, director of the county's Office of AIDS Administration, sees inherent problems when "money is turned over to the states with very few strings attached to it," he told the *Bay Area Reporter*. The likelihood block grants will streamline — and therefore improve — overall AIDS care "really depends on the state," Richards said.

In California, of course, the stewardship of the block grants and the future of the programs will rest with conservative governor Pete Wilson, who has not

equipped county governments to treat people with AIDS and failed to support the efforts of HIV prevention programs in the past.

Some support at HUD

On March 2, San Francisco HUD representative James Prater told a group of East Bay housing agencies who were meeting to discuss strategies, "We don't think [block grants] are a bad thing. We at HUD are tickled pink that all the [public housing] programs will be consolidated into block grants. You've got alphabet soup out there all serving homeless people."

In any case, he emphasized, "I wouldn't take it too seriously at this point," because despite the drama, Clinton could still veto the cuts. Of course, that would depend upon which constituencies he is also willing to cut from his 1996 bid for the presidency.

Alameda County Housing Director Linda Gardner told the *B.A.R.* that local control is stronger with block grants — but so is local opposition. "When you've got a competitive grant at the federal level, as long as there is some local support and it meets zoning [requirements] and things like that, the feds can give it the money and we can move ahead." One example has already played out with the Rose Street AIDS housing project in Berkeley: local control (which Republicans have touted as a way of empowering grass roots efforts) can also mean small but organized neighborhoods opposition to

programs that were formally mandated by the federal government.

The kind of local opposition that has driven up costs for the Rose Street development, threatening to kill it, is more likely under block grants. But, as Gardner ruefully said, AIDS housing officials have come to expect some opposition by now. "We're committed to building community support for projects whether opposition exists or not," she said. "We think that's important."

"We know the need is there, we're going to plan to try and meet the need, we're going to pool whatever resources we can, and we're committed to do the right thing regardless of what happens."

Gardner admitted, "I'm finding it a very depressing time, personally. It feels to me like the social contract of our country is being dismantled. I'm optimistic that the majority in the country doesn't share those views — they're just not vocalizing their views. That's my hope."

He said no one can afford to wait and see which way Clinton turns on these issues. "I don't think we can afford to be optimistic. It may turn out fine, but I don't think we can assume it will without us doing something about it."

"The rescission is what concerns me. I see pros and cons to [block grants], but right now my major focus is on the rescissions and not the block grants — because with block grants, at least you have the money," Gardner said. ▶

SF Hotel Sued for AIDS Housing Bias

by Dennis Conkin

A gay man with AIDS who claims he was forced to flee a North Beach residential hotel after months of anti-gay and AIDS-related harassment has sued the hotel and its owners in Superior Court.

The lawsuit charges the Liguria Hotel at 371 Columbus Street and its co-owners and managers Jean and Grace Iribarren with AIDS housing bias, constructive and retaliatory eviction, and intentional infliction of emotional distress.

The suit also alleges that Chris O'Dell, 36, was assaulted by an anti-gay tenant, that managers refused to allow Project Open Hand volunteers to leave meals for O'Dell at the hotel, and that O'Dell's rent was refused and he was told to move because the hotel owners did not want an "AIDS-infected queer" living at the property.

O'Dell told the *Bay Area*

Reporter that he learned of the Hotel Liguria because it was on a list of housing resources given to clients of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation. "It listed different sections of the city. I thought North Beach would be a nice place to live," he said.

When he first rented a room there last August, he was ill and out of work and needed an affordable and quiet place to live.

"It seemed like a nice hotel. It was in a good location. It was far enough from Broadway, and all I wanted was a quiet little room that was affordable," he said. "I took it. The problems started about a month later."

O'Dell, who moved to San Francisco from Kansas five years ago, quickly learned his \$85 a week room lacked heat and a communal bathroom sink lacked running water.

O'Dell also discovered that he could overhear conversations from the kitchen below his room

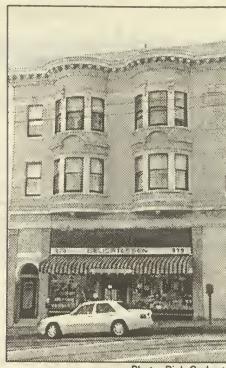


Photo: Rick Gerharter

Hotel Hell: A PWA's stay at the Liguria turned into a nightmare of harassment and assault, a suit alleges.

— and learned he was a subject of discussion by AIDS-phobic and anti-gay tenants.

O'Dell charges that was he awakened at 2:30 a.m. last November 4 by the sound of fellow tenants loudly shouting anti-gay comments such as "'faggots burn in hell,' 'faggots are not welcome here,' and biblical quotes contending that AIDS is God's punishment," according to the lawsuit filed by attorney Scott Gursky, a member of the AIDS Legal Referral Panel.

The comments were shouted from the communal kitchen to O'Dell's room, so he reported the harassment to the landlords and asked to be moved to a different room.

According to Gursky, the Iribarrens refused to give O'Dell another room — and demanded that he move out of the Liguria Hotel.

In another incident, O'Dell was assaulted by a tenant who made anti-gay slurs and slugged him in the head with such force that his glasses broke.

According to the lawsuit, O'Dell fled the hotel for four days because of the assault, but the landlord refused to accept his check for rent when he returned to the Liguria, and later gave him a three-day notice to pay his rent or leave.

"I've never seen or heard of — or imagined — anything like this happening in San Francisco," Gursky said. "Our community needs to know that situations like this exist and that there is such hatred and bias."

O'Dell said that housing conditions for people with AIDS in San Francisco are often less than desirable.

"The housing situation is horrible," he told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "They need more safe houses for people with AIDS. This puts guys under so much stress that we don't need."

Although the lawsuit was served last week, the Iribarrens have 30 days before they have to formally answer the charges. ▼

Lumpkin Loses Last Lawsuit

by Dennis Conkin

San Francisco Superior Judge William Cahill last week dismissed a religious discrimination lawsuit filed against Frank Jordan by former Human Rights Commissioner Reverend Eugene Lumpkin.

Lumpkin was fired by Jordan in 1993 after he revealed he believed a Bible passage that calls for the execution of homosexuals.

Lumpkin's attorneys argued that his comments were free speech and not actionable.

However, Deputy City Attorneys Julia Friedlander and Aleeta Van Runkle successfully argued that Lumpkin was fired for cause because his comments undermined the purpose of the HRC and interfered with Jordan administration policy.

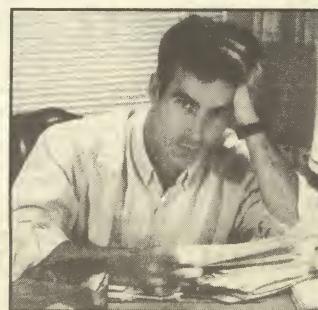
Jordan said that he "had a right and a duty" to fire the Baptist minister for "espousing a philosophy which I hold as repugnant to, and inconsistent with, service on the HRC."

In his March 21 decision Cahill ruled that Lumpkin could not re-sue over his removal in a state court.

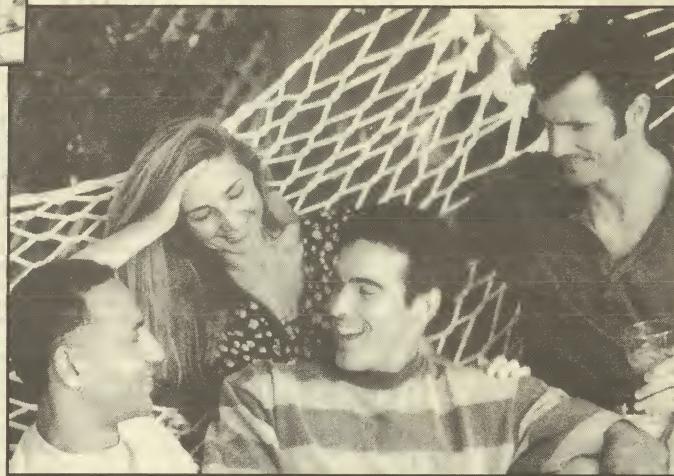
A related federal lawsuit by Lumpkin was dismissed in November 1994. ▼

Correction

Attorney J. David Nick was mistakenly referred to as J. David Ship in the March 16 issue of the *Bay Area Reporter*. We regret the error.



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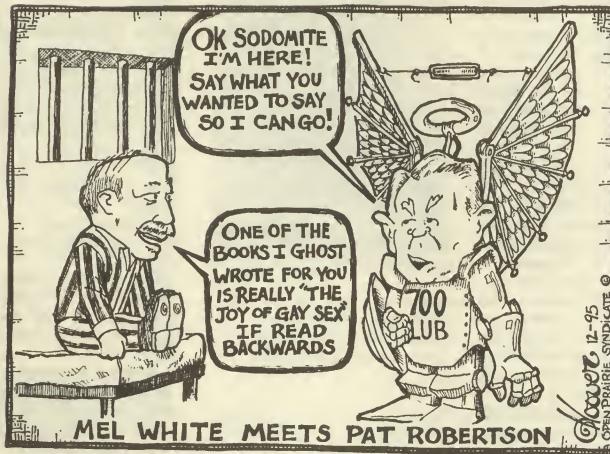
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**BAY AREA REPORTER****OPEN FORUM**

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CARTOON**EDITORIAL****The CBS Evening Newt?**

There's been no word yet on whether the networks will to bow to Newt Gingrich's demand for a primetime broadcast to mark the 100th day of the Contract on America next Friday, but we suspect it will happen. Gingrich, America's answer to General Cedars, is a determined little cuss who has gotten used to getting what he wants on his own terms; it isn't impossible to imagine him storming CBS (protected by his junta thugs, of course) to claim his rightful spot in front of the camera instead of that pesky Chief Executive, Bill Clinton.

Not, unfortunately, that we believe such drastic measures will be necessary. Despite a seemingly bumptious relationship between the news media and the Speaker of the House - his most recent comment was that if the electric light were invented today, Dan Rather would do a piece mourning the loss of the candle industry - Gingrich has been spectacularly well-treated by the supposed watchdogs of the free press. What it reminds us of most, in fact, is the weird spectacle of WWF wrestlers who scream filth at each other before they go through a pantomime of combat, then jokingly retire to the same dressing room together when the camera's switched off.

Gingrich likes to call the American press "socialist," but its real sin, in our eyes, is that it is woefully *social*. Like some unions that spent the last four decades cravenly crawling into bed with management, the media have been snuggling up far too closely with the people it is supposed to be examining. Brave journalists from other countries who truly patrol their beats at great personal risk and report on the lies and disinformation spread by their governments (and ours) must be ashamed to see the way American reporters rely on press releases and press agents and press secretaries for their "news."

This is by no means a new problem: the Washington press corps winked and shrugged at Ronald Reagan's errata and erratica for eight years, as though there were a gentlemen's agreement to protect the old fool's "dignity" - as if there ever should be such an agreement! The resulting stories were no less dishonest than, say, *Pravda*'s old denials that anything untoward was going on in the Soviet Union. (Remember *it?*)

Now that there are more Republican press secretaries, hawking Republican views on the day's events, the press is changing its own world view; it's easier than digging around for the truth. We're

afraid that Newt will get his half hour in the spotlight next week, and then a follow-up somewhat later, and then perhaps even his own spot across the desk from Rather to gloat at the demise of the candle industry every night.

We've been thinking about the press and its laziness for some time, particularly after the notorious shooting of the *Jenny Jones* guest. (For anyone who didn't hear the story, a straight man shot a gay man after the two were separately brought onto the talk show and it was revealed the gay man had a "crush" on his straight neighbor.)

Authorities instantly released statements that shifted blame away from the triggerman and onto the tv show (and, implicitly, its victim) which the press ate up. The gunman was "humiliated" it was widely said, for which the producer should suffer responsibility; after all, the suspect in custody only went out, bought a gun, bought bullets, drove to the victim's house, confronted him, excused himself, went back to the car, brought the shotgun back, and pumped slugs into the unarmed gay man.

And the media bought it. We would urge them to consider the situation if the subject of the program had been "interacial crushes" that day. Even in today's increasingly racist climate, we believe people would have been shocked if the guy had fired those shells into an Asian-American or African-American woman. But because the life that was lost belonged to a gay man, the spin of the story was changed.

More recently, the media picked up on the subject of Cryptosporidium in San Francisco. Because of the Contract on America, the GOP has successfully put off the implementation of water standards for the potentially fatal water-borne cyst. The recent floods have allowed impure water into our system, so Supervisor Migden called a hearing on the subject - which the *Chron* managed to turn into a piece worthy of crackpot Paul Cameron, suggesting if we'd just stop rimming everything would be okay. And that, unfortunately, was picked up by UPI and spread around the country. And once again, our victims are demonized and our deaths are downplayed.

Every paper and every reporter has the right to frame their stories as they see them, of course, and while that's a good thing, it is supposed to come with responsibility. We like our press *free*; we just hate it when it's made *cheap*. ▼

GUEST OPINION**All the Dogma That's Fit To Print**

by **G. Lewis Silvia** and **Dean Evan McKown**

Fools! Idiots! Murderers! Morons! Insane! Just the facts, ma'am!

This is in response to the fools who continue to believe the deadly misinformation about HIV=AIDS, and continue to live in a state of denial about the futile attempts of the medical establishment and their pursuit to find a cure for a virus that has never been proven to cause AIDS. The only confirmation we have to date is that people are dying of complications from AZT poisoning, antibiotic abuse, drug & alcohol abuse and poor nutrition. These are the facts! 14 years and over 23 billion dollars later, 350,000 dead and counting, and people still want to believe all the dogma that's fit to print. These are desperate times. Politics is the art or science of government, and current government is being run neither artfully nor scientifically. Careful, your politics of the past are showing!

Being vocal about HIV=AIDS disbelief gives an opportunity to observe the community's response to anti-HIV information. Most often the emotion is fear, displayed as anger, sarcasm, utter incomprehension, nervousness, etc.

You may think that our theories are gross falsehoods, but they are our opinions, formulated through trial and error. It is our hope that some gay men who are just as frustrated with the status quo as we are may stop to think about something other than the HIV=AIDS=DEATH propaganda that is so totally pervasive in this culture today. It is our hope that interest may be sparked in the minds of some people that might never have given any thought to an alternative treatment. We are a tiny, pioneering minority, but every day, many of us, including some doctors and scientists, are overcoming personal fears of being criticized for daring to speak against HIV. More groups are forming to combat the HIV misinformation machines.

Most recently, the CDC has announced that it will stop administering AZT to infants and children. A new study in the U.S. says that HIV+ pregnant women who take AZT have a 74 percent chance that their infants will be HIV-. However, on March 15, 1993, Project Aids International presented to the United Nations, under Agenda 24 - Children's Issues - evidence that mothers that are HIV+ and do not use AZT give birth to infants, 87 percent of which sero-convert to HIV- within 18 months after birth. These are facts. The mounting evidence against AZT is outrageous.

In 1961, Dr. Richard Beltz at Loma Linda University, under a grant by the NIH, discovered AZT. He pleaded that the drug was unfit for human consumption, and should be eradicated from the drug market. That's a fact! The drug was found to be so toxic that it actually caused cancer faster than it could help cure it. That's a fact! AZT was found to stop the reproduction of blood cells in bone marrow, and to indiscriminately kill all cells in the body that reproduce themselves, and that's a fact! You simply remain in denial. Without the HIV=AIDS=DEATH paradigm, your entire belief system falters. HIV=AIDS, overtly or covertly, underscores everything in the gay community. It pulls us together, gives us a focus, a cause, a commonality. The gay community has designed, and lives, in a total HIV-based culture, both individually and collectively.

We merely wish to encourage others to think for themselves. Given the state of complacency in our community today, and the escalating homophobia rampant in this country - no fantasy! - we were merely trying to provide a catalyst for thought to some who would consider alternative treatments to the dogma that is postulated in this society today about HIV/AIDS. Stop believing all the rhetoric. Look at the facts. What have we, by our complacency and unquestioning faith, allowed to happen? The tremendous pain and suffering we as a community have dealt with all these years can never be measured. The ones we loved and cherished are dead, we are told from HIV, when it is actually the antiviral and preventative drug treatments that are to blame. To let HIV=AIDS stand without challenge, we collectively agree to condemn hundreds, if not millions, to death. ▼

LETTERS

The NAMES Project Responds

Contrary to statements in a letter from John Carr ("Quilt Story," Letters, March 9), The NAMES Project Foundation does not use contributions from the community to pay legal fees. When we require legal counsel—which, thankfully, is not often—it is generously provided pro bono. Because Mr. Carr threatened The NAMES Project with a lawsuit, we felt counsel was required in this matter.

As your readers know too well, AIDS strikes men, women and children; priests and porn stars; accountants as well as actors. And just as AIDS does not discriminate, neither does The NAMES Project when it comes to sewing together panels of the AIDS Memorial Quilt.

We are sorry that Mr. Carr takes offense at the panels that share the 12X12 block with his friend's. But we feel most strongly that it is a far greater offense to pass judgment on those who died from AIDS by assigning their panels locations in the Quilt based on how they chose to live their lives.

Mr. Carr did not submit the panel for his friend Sjafril Adjari. The person who did has now requested that, if we do not move the panel to another block, we return it to her. The NAMES Project is doing so.

Anthony Turney
Executive Director,
The NAMES Project

AEF Corrects, Clarifies

We appreciate the nice things Michael C. Botkin said about the AIDS Emergency Fund ("The Querries," March 9), but some of the facts need to be corrected or clarified.

The total amount we are able to give each client in a calendar year remains \$500 (not \$750). However, we recently eliminated the two-year limit on client grants. This means that all past clients may return for subsequent \$500 annual grants as long as donations provide funding adequate to meet the demand.

Our threshold for eligibility is tied to the basic state disability amount. Clients must currently have a monthly income of \$1,344 or less.

The money can't go for "any legitimate expense," but only for housing, utilities, and a number of other specific categories. And we never "give out cash"; payments are always made to service providers, rather than directly to clients.

Finally, our volunteers do a remarkable job of promptly serving persons with AIDS and disabling HIV, but we can't promise rent checks within 24 hours.

After an intake volunteer works with a client to establish eligibility and document a grant request, one or two board members must review and approve the grant; a data entry volunteer writes the check; two board members review the file and sign the check; then the office staff documents the grant and mails the check.

If all of the necessary volunteers are working in a given period, 24-hour turnaround is possible—but a few working days is more realistic.

On behalf of all of the wonderful volunteers and fundraisers who make this amazing system work so smoothly, thanks to Mr. Botkin for including the AIDS Emergency Fund with LYRIC and CUAV in his annual awards.

Denis Wade
Secretary, AIDS Emergency Fund

[The editor responds: The most egregious error—about the annual limit—was my fault, not Botkin's, and stemmed from a misunderstanding about the elimination of AEF's grant limit. I apologize to all concerned for the misinformation.]

Keeping Score in Nashville

I believe I speak for many frustrated readers when I say I felt much better after reading Jim McCrea's thoroughly articulated position on elevating the level of civility in the letters column (3/2).

Many of us have grown weary of what can only be accurately referred to as the *B.A.R.*'s consistently strident yelping at any letter writer who makes a valid point of criticism. Example: Your response last summer to the well-meaning priest who gently took you to task for Catholic bashing.

Fortunately for the readers, you recognized the genuine validity of McCrea's admonishment. As of now, the scorecard reads: McCrea 1, *B.A.R.* 0.

Gene Russell
Nashville, Tennessee

[The editor responds (gently): We are so glad you feel better.]

Meals and Deals?

I just had a great idea! In this age of downsizing and shrinking budgets, it would seem logical that the needle exchange program and Open Hand or Meals on Wheels should join forces. My friends "using" drugs are never very hungry anyways.

Blaire Johnson
San Francisco

"Diversity" at St. Mary's

[The following letter was sent to Ms. Rey Friel, Chairperson, St. Mary's Ethnic Diversity Task Force:]

I am in receipt of the hospital's new "Declaration on Diversity." I must tell you how infuriating it is to have this. I believe St. Mary's is insincere, at best, as evidenced by:

- 1) refusal to provide equity of benefits to all its employees based solely on affectional preference/sexual orientation.
- 2) the statement made by Mary Ann Thode, CEO, that as long as this is a catholic diocese run by Quinn comes won't be equity of benefits.

3) St. Mary's helping to raise funds for the proudly homophobic Boy Scouts of America.

4) refusal by the hospital to apologize for this glaring affront even after being presented with a petition expressing our "extreme disapproval" that was signed by nurses, aides, doctors, social workers, managers and other staff.

5) an employee being sent to talk about this issue with our staff who wasn't even an employee at the time of the incident, could not be held accountable, refused a requested apology, and implied we were being overly sensitive.

It is the hospital, in this instance, that "is not always certain how to deal with incidents in the workplace that they feel are discriminatory or offensive." Not only do I believe that discrimination is tolerated at St. Mary's, I believe you have raised money in support of it. Last July, in a conversation with Pam Shay, personnel director, she stated it was not the policy of SMH to be involved with fundraising for homophobic organizations. It appears the left hand does not know what the right hand is doing.

An apology is still in order, would be welcomed, might even heal old wounds, and certainly would be a step towards a future where "recognition of diversity and dignity" is a reality and not just a piece of paper. Additionally, the hospital needs "an education process to increase its own sensitivity to racial and other differences!" Does "tarbaby" ring a bell? I believe there has been a poor "demonstration of options for resolving" these incidents that have occurred. Can the Diversity Task Force deal with it?

Bob Lewis
San Francisco

PC Queens and HIV

God! The HIV PC queens sure get pissed off when anyone has the gall to question their faith in the HIV Hypothesis and the AIDS establishment. (Matthews, Smith, Letters, *B.A.R.*, Mar. 2) You would think that they have bet their lives on such belief! Unfortunately, they have.

Such HIV PC queens always like to refer to people who don't believe in the HIV Hypothesis and the treatment of such as fools, uninformed, idiots and worse. They believe that HIV=AIDS=DEATH etc. is a proven fact, that cannot be denied. What facts are these people talking about?

The following are some real facts about HIV that have come to light after over 12 years of very expensive research.

1. The whole HIV idea was a political decision, not a scientific fact. HIV was decreed as the cause of AIDS by a politician (Margaret Heckler, head of HHS) and a virologist (Dr. Gallo). Dr. Gallo never offered any scientific proof that HIV causes AIDS, only his highly biased opinion.

2. The original papers that Dr. Gallo wrote on HIV were later found to be fraudulent. Dr. Gallo was found to be guilty of "scientific misconduct." The HIV Hypothesis was based on those papers.

3. Although over 60 thousand papers have been written with money obtained from AIDS grants, not one of those papers proves scientifically that the HIV virus causes AIDS. (Is this the gads of studies that Mr. Matthews speaks of?)

4. The AIDS establishment has come up with at least 41 different explanations, or hypotheses, as to how AIDS is caused by HIV. None of them have ever been proven.

5. Retroviruses, unlike almost all other viruses, do not kill the cells they infect.

6. Research has shown the HIV is rarely found in T-cells and when found it is dormant, sleeping, and not even replicating.

7. According to the standard laws of medical research, the HIV hypothesis cannot and does not work.

8. And finally, this is the first and only disease in medical history, in which a virus (HIV) – completely outnumbered by T-cells, totally inadequate in numbers, almost nonexistent, inactive, non-replicating, non-cell killing, and which induces immunity – is supposed to be annihilating the victim.

After reviewing the real facts about HIV and current AIDS treatment programs, it is quiet apparent that what the AIDS establishment is doing is based on false science and as everyone knows, it just plain does not work.

It is time the Gay Community started to listen to such people as Dr. Duesberg and Dr. Willner and developed a completely new approach to treating AIDS.

Richard McCain
Richmond, CA
Continued on page 8

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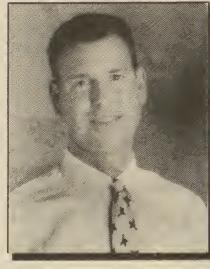
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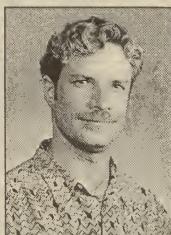
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LETTERS

Continued from page 7

SFAF Controversy, Part I

I am writing in response to an article entitled "Tensions Escalate Between SFAF Management, Workers," published in your 2/23 issue.

As a member of the bargaining unit at SFAF and a case worker in the agency's Client Services Department, I find the inflammatory rhetoric and misinformation employed by SEIU 790A and fueled by the personal agendas of a minority of bargaining unit members, to be deplorable. SEIU 790A and this small cadre of propagandists have veered way off their charted course as representatives for the "common good" through their misguided attempts to derail an agency largely responsible for creating the model of AIDS service delivery throughout this city and the nation.

While reporter Dennis Conkin did a better job than many of his counterparts in presenting a balanced piece on the labor issues that have besieged the San Francisco AIDS Foundation in the last year, the community could benefit from some clarity on one key issue.

The issue that threatens to severely stall progress in the contract negotiation process has to do with whether or not the union at SFAF will be a closed shop, an agency shop or an open shop. A majority of the rank and file favor an open shop as currently proposed by management. However, some of our "representatives" at the negotiating table - one of whom is a disgruntled former employee - and SEIU 790A have refused to take the will of the majority into consideration. They insist on making either union membership and the payment of union dues (closed shop) or the payment of dues without union membership or representation (agency shop) a condition of employment at SFAF. An open shop would allow each member of the bargaining unit to make an informed choice as to whether or not (s)he wants to have anything to do with this union. By refusing to make this compromise and engaging in a smear campaign against SFAF, staff and clients' morale is further weakened in an environment where we need all the strength we can muster to fight those who truly impede our collective endeavor to hasten an end to this epidemic.

In addition, eliminating choice in this process is an action that is antithetical to the union's supposed (and laudable) commitment to increase the number of qualified HIV-positive staff at SFAF. Why? Because currently, an overwhelming majority of HIV-positive staff in the bargaining unit oppose the union's closed or agency shop positions. This means HIV-positive staff would be fired if the union had its way!

People living with HIV/AIDS, the staff of SFAF, and you, the community as a whole, can no longer afford, through silence, to enable SEIU 790A to undermine choice among a dedicated work force. Encourage SEIU 790A and those empowered to negotiate with management to preserve choice for all through an open shop. A sense of urgency exists. We must move on. Lives depend on it!

Jeff Ward
Case Worker
Client Services Department
San Francisco AIDS Foundation

SFAF Controversy, Part II

A response to the Bill Hershon letter published in the B.A.R.

After reading your letter asking for a reconsideration of the unionization of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, I felt something was not clear.

First, you talk about the "...controversy surrounding the unionization of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation." Rather, I would say that management's attitude regarding this process has provoked the current controversy.

Second, after saying you are "...in favor of unions in general..." you question the motives in this particular case. As a result, you talk about where the money should go, and how every dollar should be spent. Of course, if the union is going to cost even one dollar, it should be "reconsidered"; money is for clients.

I agree with you that money should not be misspent in the fight against AIDS. The problem is you are questioning the wrong people.

It is clear that money is not the primary issue for the SFAF union workers. Rather, discrimination, harassment, and lack of commitment to people of color are the issues at hand in this unfortunate dispute. Did you not see or hear that?

It is very sad that whenever people of color organize themselves to defend their rights (and those of their communities) some, usually whites, question and challenge their motives. Unfortunately, because of this way of thinking, this country is "reconsidering" Affirmative Action.

Finally, I truly understand your concerns about money. Did you send a letter to Pat Christen (SFAF Executive Director) and the other four top managers asking if it is true that they are each earning \$100,000 or more, per year?

It is really disgusting that a few "managers" are profiting from the AIDS epidemic. So, who is really taking money away from the clients?

Maria Rinaldi
AIDS Health Educator

Representation on SFAF Board

For a three year period ending in May of last year, my late lover, Tomas Fabregas, served on the board of directors of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation. Tomas resigned from the Board after his frustration with the circumstances he saw at the Foundation became, for him, intolerable. With his resignation, three HIV-positive persons were left serving on the board. According to a quote recently attributed to Lance Henderson, Deputy Director of Finance and Administration, there are now only two HIV-positive persons serving on the 24-member board. That is an insult and a disservice done by this organization to persons everywhere living with HIV. These paltry numbers show that year after year, in its decision and policy making, this organization has - incredibly - shut out persons living with HIV. HIV-positive persons are not present in meaningful numbers on this board of directors, and have not been for far too great a time. That fact can be neither refuted, explained away, or excused. How many people have been arrested fighting for the principle that HIV-positive persons will speak for themselves? The members of the board of directors of this organization have no right to ignore this hard-won, fundamental principle. This shows tremendous disrespect for all persons living with HIV and AIDS.

Their hubris in doing so is the root of the trouble that today makes a laughing stock of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation. A laughing stock? No, a crying shame. To quote Tomas's letter of resignation, "Imagine the board of directors of the NAACP with only three African-Americans. Or the board of the National Organization for Women with only three women." This problem was vigorously argued with the board a year ago, yet there are even fewer HIV-positive persons serving there today. This board has failed to meet its obligations to the citizens of the Bay Area and to HIV-positive persons everywhere.

The San Francisco AIDS Foundation is a 501(c)3 "Public Benefit Corporation." The management oversees the staff, the Board of Directors oversees the management, and as citizens, we, the members of this community, have a genuine oversight responsibility for this board of directors; a responsibility we have neglected badly. If this board continues to operate without stepped up community oversight, do we doubt that it will not continue its demonstrated practice of admitting to its ranks only more and more HIV-negative business professionals? A practice which has robbed the foundation of any moral authority and left it no choice but to hunker down and commence defending the indefensible? More lawyers. More bankers. Of course they are "well-meaning" and "sensitive," but what the hell do they know about living with AIDS? The community-at-large must demand that this board move immediately to add to its membership more HIV-positive men and women from the various cultures found in the city and county of San Francisco. And they must be present on this board in numbers sufficient to form a significant voting block. Much of what is happening today at the foundation could be alleviated if the Executive Director could point to a significant number of HIV-positive persons on the board of directors who - rightly or wrongly - support her and endorse her actions. But she cannot do that because the board has failed to provide her with the minimum opportunity to receive input and be guided by HIV-positive persons and their unique experience. Her authority is therefore diminished and the organization lies in crisis.

I do not know why we have for so long had AIDS-phobic people on the board of directors of our AIDS Foundation (They must be AIDS-phobic, their record shows they allow very few persons with HIV to join their ranks. But, perhaps they are merely paternalistic.). We must write to this board and demand this change take place. Better yet, we must attend their meetings. Demand to speak. Tell them time and again of this problem. Repeat it until they learn. Support the two lonely people with HIV who presently serve on the board. Until we, the members of this community do that, persons living with HIV have no real place within the Foundation. Without their participation, the San Francisco AIDS Foundation will remain mired where it is today, lacking the moral authority and the respect required to carry out the important work that waits to be done. Waits as the management and staff fight amongst themselves. Who cares about the National Labor Relations Board? What about the needs of the men and women in San Francisco trying to live with HIV? There must be significant improvement in this current situation. It must not be allowed to continue any longer. In the year ahead, as the current Congress proceeds to gut AIDS funding, the AIDS Foundation will undoubtedly be forced to make many painful changes. Substantive, meaningful participation of HIV-positive persons will be critical if the inevitable cuts are to be respected and accepted by the community at large. As bad as things are at the Foundation today, they can surely get much worse.

I exhort all parties to expeditiously resolve their current differences. But I reaffirm my belief - and the belief stated by Tomas to the board over a year ago and borne out by recent developments - that the Foundation is lost and adrift until the presence of HIV-positive persons is dramatically increased on the board of directors. I urge everyone to take a stand for HIV-positive persons and fight for the inclusion of a meaningful, powerful number of culturally diverse persons, male and female, living with HIV and AIDS on the board of directors of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation.

Jeffrey Brooks
Oakland, CA

Is California Going Gray?

Although he has been a fixture in Sacramento since 1974 when he first ran for office and lost the nomination for state treasurer to Democratic power-house Jesse Unruh, few in the capital – or the rest of the state for that matter – have ever paid much attention to Gray Davis, California's lieutenant governor. But all that is about to change.

When Governor Pete Wilson

tion coming down. There will be other things that require action, but I told the governor that if I feel strongly about a bill, I'm going to tell him about it in advance. And notwithstanding him being forewarned, if a bill comes down on my watch, I will act accordingly."

Davis, who beat his GOP opponent for lieutenant governor last November by more than a million votes, has some political problems of his own, mostly within his own party. When Davis ran unsuccessfully against Dianne Feinstein in 1992 for the Democratic nod for state senator, his campaign infuriated party leaders by running notorious television ads that compared



Gray Davis

Feinstein to despised New York hotelier and tax evader Leona Helmsley.

Even so, there are many Sacramento politicos who say that Davis, at age 52, has mellowed and can probably be trusted to run the state in Wilson's absence in an orderly fashion: that could make him the obvious Democratic Party nominee for governor in the future, assuming he does not inherit the office by way of Wilson being elected to national office next year. Though Wilson's aides publicly state that they take Davis at his word not to make wholesale appointments, etc., many of these same staffers are privately very wary of leaving California in the hands of the ambitious Davis. Time will tell all, but at the very least, Gray Davis' stint as "acting governor" could be a taste of things to come.

Politics and people

In Hawaii, 3,000 people turned out for the annual AIDS Walk last Sunday, and raised \$150,000 for that state's AIDS organizations.

Although the Montana Legislature buckled to public outrage from all parts of the country as well as in its own

state and scrapped a provision in a sex-offender bill that would have required those convicted of homosexual acts to register with the police, the GOP-controlled body refused a proposal to repeal the state law that makes adult consensual gay sex a crime.

For over two months Republicans in the House of Representatives have closed ranks and demonstrated remarkable party discipline while moving ahead with their Contract With America. GOP unity is starting to crumble, however, as young GOP members of the House are beginning to ignore House Speaker Newt Gingrich. They've seen the polls showing his ratings slipping dramatically.

And speaking of Republicans! Pat Buchanan and Representative Robert Dornan both announced they will run for president in the same week – could the Democrats ask for anything better?

The hills are alive: famed lesbian singer k.d. lang revealed in a recent interview that she fantasized about women from an early age and the one she was most attracted to was – surprise, surprise – Maria (Julie Andrews) in the swimming-in-saccharine *The Sound of Music*. Boring!

I don't always agree with the views of *Independent* columnist Warren Hinckle, though we've been friends for years, but his recent suggestion that San Francisco should consider cashing in on gambling to eliminate its constant deficits is an idea I have advocated for a long time.

District Attorney Arlo Smith is racking up endorsements from nearly everyone in his quest for one more term. This man has been a friend of the gay and lesbian community all his adult life and clearly deserves our support again.

This might sound like an early endorsement (which is what it is intended to be), but I'm backing Carole Migden and Kevin Shelley for San Francisco's two open Assembly seats next year.

While the "Willie for Mayor" rumors keep playing out in the press, Mayor Frank Jordan is quietly going about lining up endorsements and raising hefty campaign funds.

The Quote of the Week is from Bishop Desmond Tutu, the Nobel Prize-winning Anglican bishop of Capetown, from his sermon at London's St. Martin-in-the-Fields church, in which he asked all to help in the battle against AIDS: "People with AIDS should be embraced – literally – not rejected as lepers once were. Let us all go forth to embrace and love and care for those living with AIDS."

Commentary

announced last week that he will indeed seek the GOP presidential nomination in 1996, the realization set in for most of the Capitol players that Davis will, at the very least, become "acting governor" with all the powers of that office while Wilson is forced to campaign almost full-time in other states if he has any hope of garnering the GOP convention nod next year in San Diego. Those close to the governor are assuring everyone that he is in the race because he *does* expect to win and has absolutely no interest in accepting a vice-presidential slot on the GOP ticket.

Some Wilson Republicans have threatened to tinker with the California constitution by pushing through a proposal that would make it impossible for Davis to take the top state job. This constitutional amendment would require a special election to fill any gubernatorial vacancy, thereby effectively keeping the governorship out of Democrat Davis' hands unless he won such a contest.

This so-called "tinkering" has been lambasted by almost everyone on both sides of the aisle as a terrible idea – just plain bad politics. Observers believe the idea would be soundly thrashed by voters if ever put on the ballot. Californians don't think too highly of changing the rules in the middle of the game.

As for now, Pete Wilson will soon be out of the state for days, even weeks at a time, mounting a national campaign, while Acting Governor Davis (who has held public office since 1982, when he won an Assembly seat from the Beverly Hills area and was once chief of staff for Governor Jerry Brown) enjoys his new powers, such as the right to sign or veto bills, issue executive orders, make important appointments, etc. When asked about his kick up the ladder, Davis attempted to downplay the entire thing, even assuring Wilson that he has "no desire to be looking for ways to make his [Wilson's] life miserable."

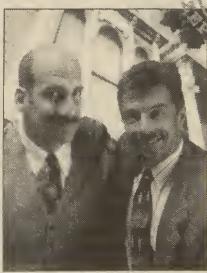
Davis did tell reporters, however, that "there will be legisla-



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Pete Wilson Goes to New Hampshire, But N.H. Doesn't Reciprocate

United Press International

CONCORD, New Hampshire – California Governor Pete Wilson spent two hours in New Hampshire Tuesday, March 28 paying a courtesy call on Governor Stephen Merrill and exploring support for his all-but-announced bid for the Republican nomination for president.

However, while Wilson's brief trip to the

first-in-the-nation primary state brought a flood of media attention, it drew no supporters to the airport where he landed in Concord.

Wilson spent his brief trip touting his opposition to affirmative action and welfare programs, while accenting his crime programs and spending cuts, which he said reduced California's budget by more than \$1 billion. ▼

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DYKEOTOMY

Push the Envelope Please...

by Nancy Boutilier

Just when you thought it was safe to get married in Honolulu or register your domestic partnership at City Hall...

Lawmakers in Montana want to bring you "Deviate Sexual Conduct Offender" registration.

Gee, where do I get in line for that one?

The Montana Senate recently passed a measure requiring registration with local authorities

for those convicted under the state's sodomy, rape, or murder laws.

Montana is one of 22 states currently outlawing various sex acts between consenting adults. Putting homosexuality on a par with bestiality, Montana bars any form of sexual contact between members of the same sex – theoretically even kissing. According to the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, Montana is one of six states that prohibit only homosexual acts, and punishments for conviction are some of the harshest in the country – ten years in prison and fines of up to \$50,000.

True, a day after passing the bill requiring registration by those found guilty of "deviate sexual conduct," lawmakers in the Treasure State reversed their position. (Does that count as "deviate political conduct," and do the lawmakers now have to register?) Nevertheless, this monstrosity did first pass by a whopping 41-8 margin.

It's nice to know where I stand in Big Sky country – amid murderers, rapists, and other violent criminals. More to the point, State Senator Al Bishop (R-Billings) said that homosexual acts are "even worse than a violent sexual act." Bishop later apologized for that claim, blaming the heat of debate for the slip. Rumor has it that Bishop and Dick Arme are separated at birth.

Her royal Jodiness

It was more than rumor that connected Jodie Foster with *Trevor*, the wonderful, gay-positive coming-of-age story that reaped an Oscar in the Live Action Short Film category Monday night. Not only is Foster's support acknowledged in the film's credits, but her Jodiness smiled proudly when singled out by name for her support of the film during the producers' thank-you speech. The acceptance speech also indicated that the short was a response to the finding that nearly 30 percent of teen suicides may be committed by gay and lesbian youth.

If you haven't seen *Trevor*, watch for it. It's a delightful cross-dress between *Harold and Maude* and *Mahogany*.

Who could be surprised that

Helena: Well, if they can make a smash out of a story of discrimination that takes place in Philadelphia, then why not take a look at what's going on in Montana? All the film needs is a title song by the lesbian "boss," Melissa Etheridge, and perhaps Whoopi Goldberg as the lead. This time she can actually consummate her love, only to find herself charged for "deviate sexual conduct."

Legends of the Falsetto: The sun reflects magnificently off Brad Pitt's hair in this epic, too. It's the story of those pioneers who moved west only to find love and disappointment, beauty

and bitterness while blazing trails at Finocchio's as female impersonators.

Clear and Present Danger: The story of a young transsexual who finds the local thugs can't accept him for who he says he is. The harassment leads to the abduction, beating, and rape of the young man – all of which are reported to the police. Despite the report, the two thugs remain free of charges, putting our hero in clear and present danger. Within days of reporting the assault, a brutal murder of the young man finally prompts the police to take action, and the thugs are charged. This would make for frightening fiction, except for the fact that such a case is currently being tried in Nebraska.

The Madness of George Bush: Pete Wilson plays George. Yikes!

Outbreak: A tedious but true-to-life drama about the outbreak of the fear and accompanying backlash that sweep through the United States as soon as people who have traditionally been marginalized or discriminated against stand up and speak for themselves.

Nellie: To avoid type-casting, director Paul Verhoeven overlooks Jaye Davidson and casts Jodie Foster as a young gay man trapped in the silence of the closet.

Interview With the Vampire: Didn't someone already make a documentary on Camille Paglia?

A League of Their Own: A light athletic comedy of errors about a softball league where the only mention of scabs has to do with the ones on your knees from sliding. Based on some of the characters who have graced San Francisco's Gay Softball League, this film would acknowledge both forerunners to the current GSL, the Community Softball League and the women's bar league.

For those of you who don't want to wait for Hollywood to make this film, check out the local fields on any Sunday. The weather, not a strike, has been holding up the GSL's spring season. Nevertheless, play begins on Sunday, April 2, starting at 9 a.m. at Balboa Field and at 10:20 a.m. at Moscone Field. ▼



Jodie Foster

a film about drag queens in the outback won Oscar honors for its costume design?

Although *Dee Mosbacher's Straight From the Heart* fell short in its Oscar bid, it's the nomination that counts.

As for Elton John's triple nomination in the Original Song category, well, perhaps the

Commentary

songs are original, but hardly cutting edge from the guy who brought us "Benny and the Jets." I don't believe the phrase "pushing the envelope" refers to the little sealed Oscar envelopes.

Dyke dreams

If someone really wants to push the envelope in Hollywood, here are some films I'd like to see:

Helena: Well, if they can make a smash out of a story of discrimination that takes place in Philadelphia, then why not take a look at what's going on in Montana? All the film needs is a title song by the lesbian "boss," Melissa Etheridge, and perhaps Whoopi Goldberg as the lead. This time she can actually consummate her love, only to find herself charged for "deviate sexual conduct."

Legends of the Falsetto: The sun reflects magnificently off Brad Pitt's hair in this epic, too. It's the story of those pioneers who moved west only to find love and disappointment, beauty

Lesbian Love Letters Wanted

by Mary Ann Swissler

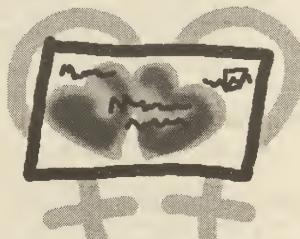
Any lesbian who has ever received a memorable love letter and wants to share it – or parts of it – with the world now has the chance. Author and singer Kay Turner is soliciting both recent and historic examples of love on the loose for a book she is composing on lesbian love letters.

Turner was recently in San Francisco perusing documents on hand at the Gay and Lesbian Historical Society. Also the author of the 1993 book, *I Dream of Madonna: Women's Dreams of the Goddess of Pop*, she met with the B.A.R. and explained her most recent work: "It's evolved out of my continuing interest in exploring and proclaiming the beauty and power of lesbian love," she said. "The larger focus of this project is to use the letters as examples of the range in feeling and thought that constitutes lesbian love."

The final product, scheduled for release in 1996 by Thames and Hudson, will be illustrated and feature about 75 letters. After publica-

tion, Turner plans to donate the collection of original letters and illustrations to the Lesbian Herstory Archives in New York City. ▼

■ Interested parties may send letters and their thoughts on the letters by June 1 to: Lesbian Love Letters Project, c/o Kay Turner-Gitn, P.O. Box 49828, Austin, TX 78765.



Mickey Mouse Protest

by Al Kielwasser

The Walt Disney Company – a paragon of “family values” in entertainment – is, ironically, under attack by Morality in Media and the 200,000-member Catholic League. At the center of this controversy is *Priest*, a new film from the Disney-owned company, Miramax.

Scheduled to be released nationwide on April 14th, *Priest* tells the tale of five fictional clergy men, two of whom are sexually active. One of the “actives” is also gay (a character described by *Variety*’s Greg Evans as “a young priest coming to grips with his homosexuality.”)

William Donohue, president of the Catholic League, wants Disney to pull the film from distribution entirely, and he has threatened a nationwide boycott and stockholder protest. “We can take their Snow White imagery, which is already tarnished, and blacken them up a little bit,” Donohue said at a recent press conference. “If Disney gets no resistance from the Catholic League and from Catholics around the country [over] this film, God knows what we can expect in the future.”

According to Morality in Media’s president, Robert Peters, “this movie attacks the Catholic Church’s teachings as the cause of the [characters’] failings and attempts to undermine the Church’s moral authority at a time when the world needs all the moral help it can possibly get.

“It is not surprising that this movie came from Miramax,” Peters added. “That company has produced films featuring cannibalism, animal worship, explicit sex, occultism – you name it.”

Miramax spokesperson Mark Gill has publicly defended the film. According to Gill, the characters in *Priest* are “not satanic figures, but real people in a real world.”

You can voice your opinion by contacting Michael Eisner, CEO, The Walt Disney Co., 500 S. Buena Vista, Burbank, CA 91521, tel. 818-560-1000.

Gays on the Guest List

One of network television’s more inviting programs is the new FOX series *Party of Five*. This drama includes the recurring character of “Roth,” a gay teacher (played by actor Mitchell Anderson).

Party of Five’s March 15th episode examined Roth’s efforts to adopt a child. Although he encounters the expected resistance, Roth is ultimately successful and brings home a new baby daughter, “Tess.” A highlight of the episode is an impassioned speech given by “Bailey,” a teenage boy and one of the show’s leading characters. Bailey eloquently stands up for Roth in an encounter with the skeptical social worker who is handling the adoption.

Party of Five occupies an important time slot, following FOX’s popular youth drama *Beverly Hills, 90210*. The character of Roth – as a teacher and now a parent – can significantly challenge long-standing stereotypes, targeting an important segment of the viewing audience with affirming messages about lesbians and gays.

Unfortunately, however, the party may soon be over. The series is at risk for cancellation, and audience numbers are crucial.

Write to Amy Lippman and Christopher Keyser, Executive Producers, *Party of Five*, c/o FOX Broadcasting, P.O. Box 900, Beverly Hills, CA 90213, tel. 310-277-2211, e-mail foxnet@delphi.com; copy your letters to Chase Carey, President, FOX Broadcasting, at the same address.

Not a Good B.E.T.

The Black Entertainment Network (B.E.T.) recently re-broadcast an episode of its *Comic View* series, in which viciously homophobic “comic” Sheryl Underwood delivers a non-stop attack on lesbians and gay men. During her rou-

tine, she rails against equal rights for lesbians and gays, shouts that homosexuality must never be included in any civil rights movement, and concludes her stand-up routine with a “humorous” comparison between gay sex and a well-known deodorant commercial. “I’ve got one thing to say to the homosexual,” she yells, “the penis may be strong enough for a man, but it’s made for a woman!”

Lynne Harris Taylor, “Comic View’s” Supervising Producer, sees nothing wrong with the whole affair. In response to complaints, Taylor has told viewers: “Comedy does not discriminate. Our comics often make fun of ... Asian, Hispanic, handicapped, homosexual ... and it is all done in fun.”

Underwood’s brand of “comedy” only perpetuates the invisibility of people of color in the lesbian and gay community, which has to struggle against racism as well as homophobia. And that is never fun.

Send feedback to Lynne Harris Taylor, Supervising Producer, *Comic View*, Black Entertainment Television, 2801 West Olive Ave., Burbank, CA 91505, tel. 818-566-9948 or 213-849-2728, fax 818-566-1655; copy your comments to Curtis Gadson, Vice-President, West Coast Operations, B.E.T., at the same address.

Uncovering Queer Youth

The March ’95 issue of *Diablo* (the glossy “Magazine of the East Bay”) features an outstanding cover story on lesbian/gay youth. Under a full-color photo of three smiling teens, the banner headline announces: “The Kids Next Door – The Newest High School Activists, Gay and Lesbian Students, Are So Out They’re In.”

Inside the cover, Eric Pfeiffer’s ten-page feature article – “Out In School” – chronicles the problems and prospects that confront young queers. His feature story serves as an eloquent vehicle for the stories told by several out teens, whom he quotes extensively throughout the piece.

Pfeiffer’s article is further bolstered by two informational boxes (or sidebars). “Where To Turn?” provides extensive resources for lesbian and gay youth. “Prayers for Bobby” reviews a new non-fiction book about the suicide of a young gay man, Bobby Griffith, and his mother’s subsequent transformation into activism.

Congratulations go to Colleen Paretty, Executive Editor, *Diablo*, 2520 Camino Diablo, Ste. 200, Walnut Creek, CA 94596-3939, tel. 800-799-7001, fax 510-943-1045, e-mail dia-blops@aol.com.

Media Briefs

■ Progressive Peak – The March 1995 issue of *The Progressive* magazine includes “Contract on Culture,” two features examining conservative assaults on public broadcasting and the National Endowment for the Arts. The issue also contains an interview with former Surgeon General Joycelyn Elders, and a critique of “NewtSpeak” by lesbian comedian Kate Clinton. **Contact: The Progressive, 409 East Main St., Madison, WI 53703, tel. 608-257-4626, e-mail progmag@igc.apc.org.**

■ Calling All Queers – Media homophobe “Dr.” James Dobson, host of radio’s “Focus on the Family,” has published a “Corporate America and the Homosexual Agenda Information Sheet.” This Fact-Less Sheet includes the phone numbers for ten AT&T executives, and Dobson’s listeners are urged to call and demand that the company stop supporting “the homosexual agenda” (i.e., ban lesbian/gay employee groups, cease corporate contributions to AIDS/HIV support groups, etc.). **A copy of the sheet can be had, at “Dr.” Dobson’s expense, by calling 800-232-6459.**

We must confront the media’s homophobia in order to cure it! To notify GLAAD/SFBA of any defamatory or affirmative media coverage call our 24-hour media watch hotline at 415-861-4588, or write to “Media Watch,” Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation/San Francisco Bay Area chapter, 1360 Mission Street, Suite 200, San Francisco, CA 94103; tel. 415-861-2244, fax 415-861-4893, e-mail glaad_sfba@aol.com.

Founded in 1988, the San Francisco Bay Area chapter of GLAAD is a membership-based community organization dedicated to cultural advocacy and media activism. GLAAD/SFBA promotes the fair, accurate and diverse representation of lesbian, gay and bisexual lives in all forms of mass media.

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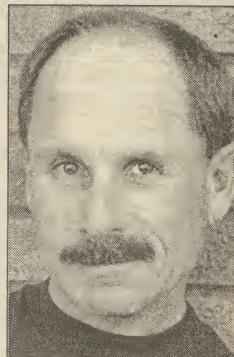
by Mary Ann Swissler

A former Alameda County AIDS Office employee has told the *Bay Area Reporter* he has nearly given up all hope county officials will reinstate his wrongfully canceled life insurance.

On Monday, March 13 the Alameda County board of supervisors, Personnel, Administration and Legislation Committee met to come up with a final solution for former Ryan White program specialist Krandall Kraus, which was terminated through bureaucratic foul-ups after he went on medical disability last May.

Kraus told the *B.A.R.* he had arrived at the meeting "somewhat hopeful" the committee would tell him it would issue a demand that insurance carrier Transamerica reinstate his policy, which was lost through a series of increasingly mysterious bureaucratic glitches. But by day's end the committee members merely lobbed the ball back to Transamerica and made a lukewarm promise to Kraus that the county would send a letter of appeal.

Kraus told the *B.A.R.* that he is not surprised at the committee's apathy but was "blown away" by a memo passed out at the meeting by Auditor/Controller Patrick O'Connell. Supervisor Wilma Chan had stressed it was a new attempt by the county to make sure no other employees lost their insurance as Kraus did, and said it had been circulated to all departments about their obligation to educate employees about the terms of benefits in the event



Krandall Kraus

of a medical disability.

In it, O'Connell specifically states that his office is not responsible for benefits.

Further, the memo read: *"In fact no department has been given official responsibility or staff for benefits administration."*

Said Kraus, "This is an absolute documented proof that there is no mechanism for personnel."

Because Kraus said he meticulously followed the instructions in the personnel handbook (which David Brown, an aide to Chan, conceded to the *B.A.R.* is confusing and hard to follow) and filled out all the needed forms, and because premium deductions continued to be made from his disability checks, he felt sure he had maintained coverage — and was completely shocked at its cancellation. He

said O'Connell's memo was "passing the buck."

John Iversen, a member of the AIDS Advisory Board and of ACT UP/East Bay said, "They're screwing Krandall out of his life insurance, and this issue won't go away. We expect action out of the Office of AIDS Administration and the Board of Supervisors to ameliorate this situation."

Unfortunately, with Kraus in deteriorating health he is in the ironic position of needing his insurance more even as he is able to fight for it less. "Our experience is that when people get sick that's when people really get taken advantage of. It's really very hard to fight when you're sick," Iversen told the *B.A.R.* "Patrick O'Connell should take more of an advocacy role here."

If Transamerica's reaction to the county is negative, Kraus said, his next step will be to consult a lawyer with the AIDS Legal Referral Panel. He could have a case: Will Bacon of AIDS Benefits Counselors, a former benefits manager for various corporations, told the *Bay Area Reporter*, "If those things [benefits, requirements, liabilities, and the like] are not communicated in a proper fashion, it could be a violation of state or federal law."

Kraus acknowledged he has been consulting with an ALRP attorney, but has delayed any formal action since going before the AIDS Advisory Board last January. "I wanted to give everyone a chance to do the right thing."

PAL Committee Chair Chan (whom Kraus called "very

quiet" during the meeting) commented in an interview with the *Bay Area Reporter*, "We want to try our best to remedy the situation," but she made it clear that at this point the county believes it is up to the insurance company to voluntarily reinstate Kraus. "I think we're waiting to see what happens," she said.

Kraus said he believes the county still has many options at their disposal. "We all know that they could pressure Transamerica into doing this. They could say, 'If you want to keep Alameda County business, if you want to underwrite the thousands of employees we

send you, you give back this man his insurance.'"

Bacon agreed. He said that as a benefits manager he has been in the position that Alameda County administrators find themselves in, and has done his share of arm-twisting to leverage an insurance company into making an exception. "Usually when it does happen, it occurs when someone on the employer's side has dropped the ball," said Bacon.

"They could tell them, 'I don't care if all the *ts* are not crossed and the *is* are not dotted, allow this person to convert the policy.'"

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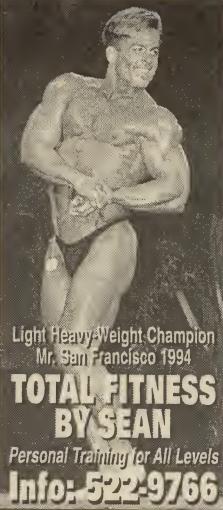
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COMMUNITY NEWS



Photo: Mary Ann Swissler

Sartorial splendor: SF's own Roberta Achtenberg was the hit of the LAVA Awards, with her outfit a close runner-up.

'95 LAVAs Praise Lesbian Leaders and Roberta's Dress

by Mary Ann Swissler

The third annual LAVA Awards on Saturday, March 25 drew roughly 550 lesbians to the Hyatt Regency Ballroom to raise money for Bay Area Career Women's A Fund of Our Own. The lovely and articulate Joann Loulan helped set the tone of the evening, punctuating each introduction with historical anecdotes gleaned from her own personal experience in the Bay Area lesbian community for the past 20-plus years.

"Everybody being honored here tonight does every fucking thing there is to do," she said. "We are everywhere! No wonder they're freaked out!"

In accepting their awards, the six recipients underscored the need to continue to agitate in the face of unrelenting political pressure from right wing Christian factions. They also called for lesbians to honor their own creative expressions, whether in poetry, music, political, or community activism.

Former San Francisco Supervisor Roberta Achtenberg was lauded for her continuing agitation inside the Clinton administration — and, throughout the evening, for her dress. In receiving an award for Political Activism, Achtenberg — now the Assistant Secretary for Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in Washington, D.C. — told the crowd it was great to be back in the Bay Area and paid tribute to attendees Phyllis Lyon and Del Martin. Achtenberg told the audience that in pondering the recent spate of state initiatives calling for the elimination of gay rights, she thought of them.

"To tell you the truth," she said, "I think almost every day of Phyllis and Del. And the reason they come so readily to mind is because they are the living example, to me, of what can be achieved if you are willing to persevere and recognize that we have to be in all of this for the long haul."

Tracy Gary, awarded a LAVA for Philanthropic Activism, spoke at length about the fundraising skills that lesbians need to learn "to transform society." It cannot be left up to mainstream grantors, she pointed out, since only a mere .2 percent of all corporate grants go towards gays and lesbians.

With the escalating costs associated with opposing anti-gay rights initiatives, Gary told the audience, funding sources have to be found outside the usual network. A continuing lack of support from mainstream foundations represents an addi-

tional reason lesbians need to learn how to raise money. A Fund of Our Own distributes awards ranging from \$500 to \$4,000 to projects all over the Bay Area.

Gary observed that although proceeds from that night's ticket sales would net an impressive dollar amount, it represents a drop in the bucket for the real costs of running a non-profit organization. She then put to use the same ploy of evangelical Christians, calling on the crowd to walk up to the front podium and drop their donations into the bowl.

Other awardees included: María Cora for the Arts; Helen Vozenilek for Athletics; Judy Dlugacz for Business and Commerce; and Doreene Wong for Community Activism.

Cora said, "We still have a long way to go in terms of adding recording work and expanding on performance work" and called for an end to sexist and homophobic lyrics. After the dinner, Cora's salsa band Orquesta Azucar y Crema provided entertainment to an enthusiastic crowd.

Dlugacz, of Olivia Records and Olivia Cruises, took home a Business and Commerce Award after quipping that Olivia Records has been in the red more than in the black. But the importance of her company's contributions could never be overshadowed by a weak bottom line. "We thought we could change the world. I think we changed a lot of lives," Dlugacz said of her music company.

Attorney Wong received the Community Activism Award, for breaking barriers for lesbians and stereotypes about Asian-American women. She said she felt like the movie character Forrest Gump and credited her success to merely being in the right place at the right time. Wong said that the challenge presented by militant factions of the right wing in America means that lesbians no longer have the luxury of infighting. She added that the mere passage of laws is not everything, noting that the *Brown v. Board of Education* decision has not truly wiped out racial segregation in public schools.

Kathy Bern was also recognized for her work with Sappho's, which has provided many women, both gay and straight, with a place to stay. ▼

■ For further information about A Fund of Our Own call (415) 398-2333. To nominate someone for a 1996 LAVA Award call Bay Area Career Women at (415) 495-5393.

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New Book Exposes Plight of HIVers in the Workplace

Discrimination American Style

by Patrick D. Hoctel

Over the year and a half it took Dr. Jeffrey A. Mello to write the recently published *AIDS and the Law of Workplace Discrimination* (Westview Press), he sifted through some 1,000 court cases to find the 60 that would eventually form the backbone of his book. In what may become the primer for issues involving the workplace and HIV, Mello, 35, an associate professor in the School of Management at Golden Gate University whose specialty is employment law, examines how the laws intended to protect employees with HIV from discrimination have worked or have failed to provide protection. He also analyzes the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) and offers important policy recommendations for dealing with the limitations of the ADA.

His stated goal is to bring "these concerns to the forefront in academic circles. I'm finding that particularly in these circles and in management that people are ignoring AIDS ... AIDS discrimination. They don't see it as being important.

"I've decided that - fuck it - it's important to me. I talk about this stuff in class, and my students understand it's important. I live and teach in San Francisco, and most of them have been affected by AIDS in some way, shape or form, and they want to hear about it."

Patrick D. Hoctel: What inspired all your research and led to the book?

Dr. Jeffrey A. Mello: Number one, I'm a gay man, so it's affected me. I've done volunteer work with AIDS service organizations for almost 10 years. My best friend died six years ago from AIDS.

One of the major cases regarding discrimination involved a neighbor of mine when I lived in Boston, and I got to see what happened to him firsthand, where I would look out my kitchen window and see some of his co-workers parked in a car outside his house harassing him when he walked his dog, threatening to lynch him.

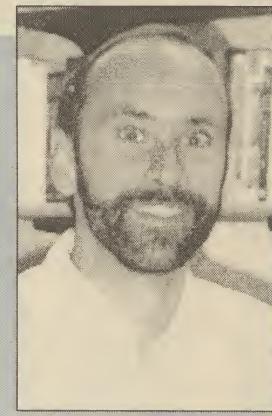
He was suing the company?

No, simply because he had the disease. He was a guy who worked for New England Telephone, who told his supervisor in confidence that he had AIDS. The supervisor leaked it all over the company, and the co-workers went ballistic. This is going back quite a bit - 1984, 1985.

The frosting on the cake was the fact that in the area in which I'm involved professionally, Organizational Behavior and Human Resource Management, no one was touching it [AIDS discrimination], and it's so, so crucial. I go to all these academic conferences, and there's nothing about gay issues in the workplace, nothing about AIDS.

Describe how you went about doing your research.

What I did in my research was look at every court case that has been reported since the beginning of the epidemic in



GGU's Dr. Jeffrey A. Mello: "If a company wants to get rid of you, they can find a way to do it legally."

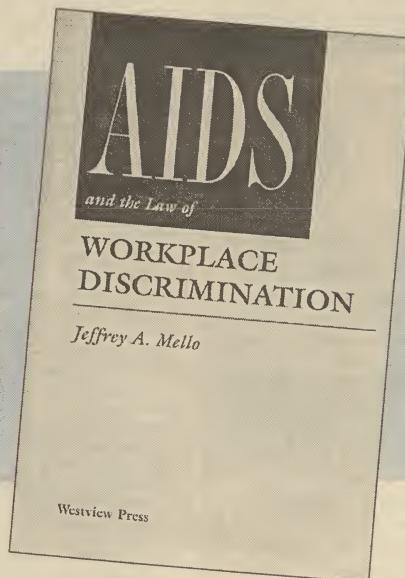
1981, though the first case that came to court didn't happen until 1984. I looked up the text and read through the cases that were specifically about employment discrimination based on HIV status.

I classified all the cases in a variety of different ways. The first way I separated them was by HIV status. And I grouped them [according to] people who had full-blown AIDS and people who had what was at the time called ARC [AIDS-Related Complex]. Even though the clinical definition of ARC is sort of passe now, a lot of the cases were classified that way. I looked at people who were HIV positive but asymptomatic. And then the fourth group was high-risk group members, who in many cases were negative or hadn't even been tested at all, but were discriminated against because they were perceived to have HIV. And largely, that [fourth group] was pretty much, although not exclusively, gay men. I studied those four categories and tried to determine the extent to which each of them received protection under the law, to see if there were any distinctions between them.

Then the second way I looked at them was at the specific way the employer discriminated, the specific discriminatory behavior, and grouped the cases that way. For example, refusal to hire, denial of benefits, harassment and so on. I examined each of those behaviors and how much the law protected them.

Then I went and looked at each case based on the defense strategy the employer used. In some cases they argued that it cost too much. In some cases they said the employee wasn't protected under the law for one reason or another. In another case they claimed a fear of contagion. And then I looked at the legitimacy of all those different defense strategies to see the extent to which the courts upheld them.

What were your findings? Were there things that were



Before he actually started work, he told his supervisor, "Look, I'm HIV positive. I hope it's not an issue." He was really upfront with it, and they said, "Sorry, we can't hire you." He sued and he won, and that court found there was no risk of transmission.

Some of these cases were federal cases, and some were state cases. But almost all the state laws were modeled after the federal law in terms of how they defined someone with a handicap or disability. Now the thing that was difficult about that is that before the ADA, the federal law we had was called the Vocational Rehabilitation Act, which was passed in 1973. Obviously, it did not specifically mention AIDS or HIV, because they didn't exist then and couldn't be anticipated. So a big issue of contention in the courts prior to the ADA was "Is HIV infection a protected handicap?" And the courts ruled differently on it.

The ADA, on the other hand, clearly clarifies that HIV is protected. It doesn't say so in the text of the law, but if you go back and look through the *Congressional Record* on the debate, someone - I believe it was Jesse Helms - asked, "Are we going to include people with AIDS with this?" And they said, "Yes, this is included." Then he said, "What about fags, **Continued on page 20**

shocking or surprising to you?

One of the things that was a point of concern was the inconsistency with which different courts were treating cases that were very, very similar. For example, there was a case in Florida, *Severino vs. North Fort Myers Fire Control District*, where a firefighter was

reassigned from active duty because of potential risk of transmission, and the courts upheld that. They said that firefighting does present a risk.

The exact same case in Washington, D.C., *Doe vs. District of Columbia*, a guy was hired for a firefighting position.

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Two groups of volunteers with 200-500 CD4: those who have taken AZT for 4-24 months, who receive either AZT plus NVP or AZT plus placebo, and those who have not taken antivirals, who receive NVP or placebo. The study offers cross-over to active drug for all participants. Boehringer Ingelheim.

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THIS WEEK IN GAY HISTORY

The Birth of the B.A.R.

by Mary Ann Swissler

The first issue of the *Bay Area Reporter* rolled off the presses April 1, 1971. The entire front page of the inaugural issue was an announcement about Cirus Circus's arrival in San Francisco; stories on the inside pages included gossip columns, tales of the best parties from the previous weekend, and an article reminding the community about serious abuses inside the county jails and state prisons.

The first anniversary issue in 1972 also brought up instances of homophobia inside Northern California jails. The B.A.R.'s page one story about prison conditions this week in 1972, headlined "Death at Vacaville" (and resting atop a photo of co-publisher Paul Bentley in drag accepting a Golden Award for Best News and Information Media for 1971), told the story of gay inmate Westley Ashmore, who hanged himself out of rage and frustration with his lot in life.

Ashmore's string of bad luck began with his arrest for "lewd and lascivious conduct" in Ventura County, California. He was denied parole in 1970 and 1971, and in 1972 was sent to the Vacaville prison's "P-wing" with other men who had been caught in gay sex acts. Within weeks he learned the parole board turned down his release for the third year in a row because of his "immoral" behavior.

Two days after that, he tore sheets from his cell bedding, made a noose, and hanged himself.

According to the article by Don Jackson, "The Vacaville Papers" documenting the sequence of events that drove Ashmore to an early death included official and anecdotal records smuggled out of the Jenner Homosexual Unit of the Department of Corrections Medical Facility at Vacaville. Among the charges were allegations that prison guards rejected Ashmore's requests to speak with a social worker about his worsening depression.

Nothing came of Ashmore's case, but the county did move on improving the lot of gay prisoners: the San Francisco Council on Criminal Justice formed a pastoral and social services program later that month, and Father Robert Richards was asked by Sheriff Hongisto to assist openly gay or lesbian prisoners inside the county's two jails.

He had his work cut out for



The April 1, 1972 first anniversary issue with the late Paul Bentley, former B.A.R. co-publisher, and trophy adorning the cover.

"From the correctional institutions the argot seems to have filtered into working-class, and sometimes middle-class, lesbian society." One of these was "trapeze artist," which meant a woman who performed cunnilingus.

Prisoners have alternately gained and lost civil rights inside the penal system. Prison life has never been designed for maximum comfort, but *The Advocate* reported in November 1989 that society is still determined to make it worse for gays. A Texas HIV-positive inmate was sentenced to life after he was convicted of spitting in a guard's face.

Both the B.A.R. and ACT UP have refocused attention on conditions at Vacaville in recent years, particularly after a rash of deaths of HIV-positive inmates inside their cells (four in one week in 1993) and the warden, James Gomez, blocked early compassionate release of dying prisoners. A hospice for dying convicts was finally instituted at Vacaville, but prisoners have told the B.A.R. it has only slightly improved the lot of HIV-positive inmates there. ▼

■ Research compiled with the assistance of the San Francisco Gay & Lesbian Historical Society Archives. (Thanks, Walker.)

NATIONAL NEWS

AmFAR

Continued from page 1

involved in AIDS fundraising is dwindling anyway, because people are simply "AIDSe out," Silverman said.

And while some non-profit research foundations, such as the March of Dimes and others, may have enough reserves to equal a year's expenses, AmFAR doesn't have enormous cash reserves, he said, because the organization decided early on that the money it raised needed to go immediately to the front-line research efforts.

Programs targeted for reduction include research support into the efficacy of needle exchange programs as a tool for reducing the spread of HIV among injection users.

In some cases around the country, the AmFAR research support of a needle exchange program may be the program's only financial support.

"While we are not a support organization, the

studies have provided a means for collecting data about the efficacy of needle exchange on seroconversion," Silverman told the *Bay Area Reporter*.

The decision to reduce the operating budget was made by the foundation's board of directors, which includes San Francisco Health Department Commissioner and AIDS activist Mike Shriver, and gay civic leader and philanthropist James Hormel.

"AmFAR's board of directors is committed to strengthening the foundation in order to redouble its historic, long-term commitment to fighting against AIDS. We believe the planned reduction will allow the foundation to grow from a position of fiscal strength in the future," Silverman said.

Silverman said that AmFAR would continue to support its community-based clinical trials program.

"Community-based research is an innovative approach to finding effective treatments for AIDS, and it increases patient access to promising experimental treatments," he said. ▼

Crypto

Continued from page 1

to the public.

Because "an estimated 18 million [gallons] of turgid water was recently released into the Hetch Hetchy water system, which supplies drinking water to 1.5 [million] Bay Area residents," according to the resolution, and because "California health officials cited Hetch Hetchy for two violations of unsafe drinking water within one week," Migden's proposal calls for public notices for conditional boiling of water if a contamination risk is present.

"We don't want to create unwarranted alarm, but it seems advisable to be especially cautious in communities where there is a high prevalence of people with compromised immune systems," Migden said. Supervisor Tom Ammiano also warned against hysteria at the hearing.

Brian Jones of Clean Water Action (CWA), a safe drinking water coalition, said the non-profit coalition now has 700,000 members nationwide and 70,000 members in the Bay Area. CWA thinks Cryptosporidium poses a very real threat to the health and well-being of the people of San Francisco which cannot be ignored, Jones said.

"An outbreak of Crypto in San Francisco would be doubly disastrous, as the city has a high population of persons with compromised immune systems who are often fatally affected by the disease," Jones told supervisors. "Merely because there has been no outbreak in the past, it does not mean there could not be one in the future." Jones told supervisors that more public education is needed.

Public officials reiterated previous statements that city water is safe. Anson Moran, general manager of the Public Utilities Commission, again said San Francisco has been proactive, regularly testing the water supply for Cryptosporidium – along with other parasites – since the mid 1980s. The city has a disease surveillance program that will detect "low level" outbreaks of Cryptosporidium in immunocompromised persons, Moran said.

Dr. Francis Taylor, director of the Bureau of Communicable Disease Control for the San Francisco Department of Public Health, again said that Crypto can be transmitted by means other than water including interpersonal contact, exposure to feces of infected animals, and on unashed farm produce.

Clifford Bowen, senior sanitary engineer for the California Department of Health, and Dr. Steve Leonard, program manager for Hetch Hetchy, also answered questions from supervisors.

Jones later told the B.A.R. he felt the hearing was "starting a process." If

there is no federal protective standard for Cryptosporidium, he said, "Then let's get a standard."

And among other recommendations he urged that "filtration systems should be used for water sources which are currently not filtered."

Jones told the B.A.R. that East Bay Municipal Utilities District (EB MUD) was far ahead of San Francisco in terms of water standards already adopted.

Personal testimony

The most compelling testimony came from Allen Harris, who spoke as a person with Cryptosporidiosis. The 38-year-old impeccably groomed registered nurse acknowledged that he found it embarrassing to discuss such a highly personal matter but he felt compelled to do so. Now, he said, he lives "between the sofa and the bathroom" with 12 or 18 bowel movements per day.

Harris recalled being hospitalized for two weeks last October, during which he watched his hospital roommate – a man in his early 30s who had been abandoned by a lover because "he couldn't deal with it" – die a horrible and painful death.

"A few nights, in the middle of the night, we had some heavy duty conversations relating to the pain, to the diarrhea, and the psychological problems associated with it."

"It's a disease that not one more person should have to get," Harris said.

In an interview with the *Bay Area Reporter* after the hearing Harris gave additional details on what he called "the worst AIDS-related death." He acknowledged having had AIDS for a number of years, but said, "I'd been fine until the Crypto hit," and has been taking morphine for the pain since November. "Crypto is painful, exhausting, and humiliating," he said. "It's terrible. I don't want to die that way."

Despite Taylor's assertion that most Crypto is transmitted sexually, Harris said as a registered nurse he normally follows safe sex practices and stated, "It is my assumption I got it from the water supply."

"It provides another reason to practice safe sex," he said. "We should all be concerned about Crypto, regardless of our HIV status."

Finally, Harris told the B.A.R. "It is kind of ironic that I was a research nurse – a study coordinator – with a study that included Crypto. Three years ago I watched people die of it. I watched them slowly waste away and die. They were incontinent on cars and buses, and so they were limited as to what they could do."

"I was thinking, 'God, please don't let me get that disease,' and now I have it." ▼

For more information on the non-profit Clean Water Action Coalition, call Brian Jones or Bruce Livingston at (415) 362-3040.

Oregon TV Wins \$2500, Free Ads in Transit Settlement

by David Batterson

PORTLAND – "Snickers LaBarr," a popular female impersonator who has a local public access cable television show, has settled a legal battle with Tri-County Metropolitan Transportation District (Tri-Met) over his unsuccessful attempt to place a poster ad on a bus.

In a landmark case for local mass transit advertising, Jerry A. Kallioinen, the real person behind the Snickers LaBarr persona, received \$2,500, in addition to the placement of ten signs on Tri-Met buses for a one-month period for no charge. The signs appeared on buses from February 15 through March 15.

Kallioinen had originally submitted a proposed bus advertisement to Obie Media Corp., the contractual advertising agency for Tri-Met. He said he could only afford to pay for one ad poster for a period of 30 days, which would have cost about \$270 plus the ad's production costs.

Last September, after the proposed ad went all the way to Tri-Met's board of directors, Obie rejected it, allegedly because it violated unspecified "family values." There was no nudity, and nothing obscene or tasteless about the submitted poster ad.

After Tri-Met's refusal, Kallioinen filed a complaint of unlawful practice with the Civil Rights Division of the Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industries. At that time, Kallioinen stated that Obie had not provided him with a "family values" policy, nor did Obie offer any suggestions how the ad could conform with said policy.

The complaint alleged public accommodation discrimination on the basis of sex and perceived sexual orientation. In



Photo: T. Perrin - On Broadway

Snickers has the last laugh: Oregon cable TV personality Snickers LaBarr won a lawsuit against the transit company that refused to run her poster.

part, it stated: "I believe my advertisement was rejected due to the fact that I am a male who performs dressed as a female. My advertisement adhered to Tri-Met's contract with Respondent."

Kallioinen was represented by openly gay Portland attorney (and State Representative) George Eighmey, who took the case on a pro bono basis. The attorney met personally with Tri-Met General Manager Tom Walsh to discuss nondiscrimination policies, as part of the settlement. Eighmey was also successful in getting Tri-Met to "draft an advertising policy in substantial compliance with the constitutional protection provided in the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. The intent of this policy is to prevent a similar denial of advertising on Tri-Met's vehicles as occurred between Complainant, Obie and Tri-Met."

Eighmey said that the results of the settlement were better than expected. "I am especially pleased with the effort that Tri-Met has given towards adopting a new policy regarding discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation," he said.

Kallioinen told the *Bay Area Reporter* that he is extremely pleased with the outcome, and that he has received tremendous support and praise for his successful fight. He is currently employed as an instructor at Milwaukee Beauty School, but hopes to have his own commercial talk show in the future. ▼

Comments may be emailed to Rep. George Eighmey via: RepGeorge@aol.com. Address of The Snickers LaBarr Show is P.O. Box 22607, Portland, OR 97222-0607.

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OBITUARIES

OBITUARY POLICY

Obituaries must be typed and no longer than 200 words. Please follow normal rules of capitalization – and no poetry. We reserve the right to edit for style, clarity, grammar and taste.

If you're submitting a photo of the deceased, write their name on the back. If you include a SASE for the photo's return, write the person's name on the inside of the envelope flap.

Deadline for all obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m.

Danny Duane Denning

June 19, 1955 – March 11, 1995

Danny passed away quietly on Saturday, March 11, at Laguna Honda Hospital in San Francisco. His course of AIDS had been fast and furious, and on his own terms. Those of us who remember Danny know this is also how he lived his life.

Danny was a sexy, witty man, a carpenter with a big heart and a big mustache. He was also a troubled, complex man – a gypsy with a pool cue in one hand and a beer bottle in the other. Goodbye, Danny, and sweet rest.

For more information, call Michael at (415) 864-2257. ▼

Michael Thomas Newman

April 5, 1956 – March 10, 1995

Mike Newman passed away peacefully at his home in Foresthill, California, with Mike Mears at his side. Mike & Mike of Foresthill was how Mike "Newman" was probably best known.

Mike received his bachelor's in forestry from Penn State in 1978, then worked for the Department of Agriculture in Florida, the Forest Service in Idaho and as a silviculturist for the U.S. Forest Service in Foresthill. Mike took great pride in his work and was awarded Silviculturist of the Year 1991-1992 by the state of California.

Mike & Mike met on a sunny day at the American River in Auburn in 1981, and began a loving relationship that grew to encompass many wonderful friends. If you had the pleasure of attending one of the Summer Pool Parties thrown by Mike & Mike at their home, you'll remember seeing Mike at his best – in the environment that he created. He loved his yard, his garden, his flowers and his trees.

Mike will be dearly missed by his parents, John and Elfriede Newman; sisters, Chris and Ursula; and brother, John of Pennsylvania. A celebration in honor of Mike's life will be held on April 30 in Foresthill (916-367-3023). ▼

Billy Dewayne Brayman

Sept. 29, 1962 – Nov. 22, 1994

Billy passed away on November 22 in Detroit, Michigan. He is survived by his mother, three brothers, one sister and his honey of 12 years, Gene Brayman.

Billy lived almost his entire adult life here in the city. He loved to listen to music and go out dancing, often with his best friend, Larry Ketcherside. He also loved to draw and paint. We miss him more than words can say. ▼

Benjamin Saeta

Feb. 4, 1920 – March 18, 1995

Ben died after a short battle with cancer, and is free from the pain he felt these last few weeks.

Ben fought in WWII and shared several stories about that with his friends. He collected art from many of the places he visited around the world. He loved having friends over for dinner and has lived the last ten years happy, joyous and free!

Mostly, Ben will be remembered for his little words of wisdom, such as: "What you think of me is none of my business; what I think of you is none of your business; it's what I think of myself that counts!"

His family and many friends will miss him greatly. There will be a gathering for Benjamin on Saturday, April 1, at noon at 1010 Valencia. ▼

Don L. Teal

Feb. 2, 1938 – March 10, 1995

On a stormy winter morning, our dear friend, Don Teal, passed away at the Zen Hospice Project.

Born in Seward, Nebraska, on Groundhog's Day, Don left the Midwest in his early twenties and moved to San Francisco, where he spent the rest of his life working in the shipping industry primarily.

At the time of his death, he had worked for Hyundai Merchant Marine for seven years.

Don was a warm, funny, generous friend and will be remembered as someone who loved: camping, construction workers, Liz Taylor, candy, drives in the country, Marilyn Monroe, men of color, dinners at the House of Prime Rib, gossip, dogs, Lana Turner, phone calls, the Discovery Channel, cruising, San Luis Obispo, elephants, bulging forearms and big baskets.

He is survived by three brothers, Roscoe, Morris and Robert Teal, and one niece, Gayla Jakoubek.

Donations in Don's name may be made to the Zen Hospice Project or the Coming Home Hospice of San Francisco.

Following Don's wishes, no memorial service is planned. A celebration of his life will be held on Palm Sunday, April 9. Contact Gordon (664-7055) or Pamela (775-4120) if you would like to attend. ▼

Andrew Ellenbogen

July 15, 1954 – Feb. 28, 1995

A native San Franciscan, Andrew passed on to that great swap meet in the sky on February 28 at 1 a.m. His last days were spent at Kaiser Hospice and the Greenery, which deserve many thanks for his care.

What words come to mind to describe our friend Andrew: gardener, poet, independent, strong-willed,

high-strung, collector, barterer, inventor, creative, smart, hilariously funny, witty, dancer, spiritual, general party-man, happy and a definite character. One thing you can count on is that Andrew will not be forgotten, that includes both those who knew him well and anyone who came in contact with him.

During his last months, his childhood friend, Jessica DiVergilio, was by his bedside, bringing much comfort to him. Also, his longtime friend David Gordon was there to help Andrew in his last months.

There will be a memorial service in the AIDS Grove at Golden Gate Park sometime in the future.

Everyone who knew Andrew misses him and feels strongly that he is with his beloved grandmother, father, mother, brother Greg, friends gone by and dog Ruffy – having the ball of his life!

In lieu of flowers donations can be made to PAWS. ▼

Gary Louis Vismara

May 3, 1956 – March 21, 1995

At his home in Orangevale, Gary Louis Vismara entered into eternity on Tuesday, March 21, with his friend and lover, Donald Baptista, at his side.

Born in Oakland to Jeanette Hudson Vismara and Louis Vismara, he will be remembered for his generosity, his kind spirit and his loving affection. He attended local schools in Hayward and lived for many years there and in Fremont before relocating to the Sacramento area in 1990.

In addition to Don, Gary is survived by his mother, Jeanette Vismara of Auburn, and sisters, Sharon Wegener of Auburn and Linda Butler of Uxua. He was preceded in death by his father and many dear friends.

Don, Gary's mother and sisters, his Aunt LaVerne VanHagen and friends Beth Pridham, Eric Holmes and Al Jensen were with Gary during his last few days. Faithful canine kids Bo and Sister will also miss him. Memorial services will be private. Contributions in his memory may be made to the Sacramento AIDS Foundation, 920 20th St., 2nd Floor, Sacramento, CA 95814. ▼

Andrew D. Seal

Sept. 28, 1944 – March 15, 1995

Andy Seal, 50, died on March 15 after many years of living with HIV. He was a San Francisco treasure: politically progressive, a good friend, intelligent and astoundingly knowledgeable on a wide variety of subjects.

Andy grew up in Newport Beach and earned a degree in history from Reed College. He did graduate work in architecture at UC Berkeley.

Andy moved to the Bay Area in the 1960s, where he worked against the Vietnam War. He was an active member of Bay Area Gay Liberation (BAGL) and was an early participant in KPFK's Fruit Punch radio collective. In the 1980s Andy turned his brilliant mind from designing and building to computers. He became the expert on every system and worked at City College and SF State for many years.

Andy is survived by his life partner, James Joyce; mother, Zelda Robinson; brothers, Steve and Jonathan Seal; sister-in-law, Daniella Birch; and many friends, including Claire Gorfinkel, Denny Smith, Larry Brinkin, Mark Weisman, Michael Staron, Peter Goldblum, Steve DiVerde and Wood Massi.

A memorial gathering will take place on Saturday, May 6, 4-6 p.m., at 640 Waller Street, SF. For info call 864-3433. ▼

Report On Safe Sex Epidemic Threshold: What A Difference One Contact Makes

by Pete Hodgdon

A new Columbia University study statistically highlights the future progression of AIDS and shows the narrowness of the line between getting a handle on the epidemic and allowing it to wipe out the community.

Martina Morris and Laura Dean, authors of "Effect of Sexual Behavior Change on Long-term HIV Prevalence Among Heterosexual Men," used the "epidemic threshold" model to predict the future of AIDS in the gay community in New York City. The epidemic threshold is the point at which the average infected person infects

exactly one other person. Anything below the epidemic threshold and infection rates will steadily decline.

Morris and Dean found that gay male New Yorkers averaged 11 unprotected sexual contacts every year before the AIDS epidemic. By 1991, after years of aggressive educational campaigns, the number had fallen to just one. The purpose of their research was to determine if that level of safe sex behavior is low enough to substantially alter infection rates.

The report indicates that if the community simply maintains its current behavior, even without a vaccine or a cure, it is well on

its way toward controlling the disease. According to the report, if gay men have an average of just one unsafe contact every year, HIV infection rates will fall from today's astronomical 40 percent to five percent in the year 2030.

But it also highlights how even a very slight shift in current behavior can change the future for the worse: if gay men remain just above the threshold, the glide path toward eradication is reversed and infection will rise.

According to the report, an average of two unsafe contacts every year will mean that approximately 65 percent of gay men will be HIV-positive by 2030. ▼

First House for Stanislaus County PWAs Opens

by Kent Brandley

The first transitional house for people living with HIV has been opened in Stanislaus County, Jean Yokotobi, Stanislaus County HIV Coordinator, confirmed in an interview with the *Bay Area Reporter*.

The house opened "after we went through the HUD [Housing and Urban

Development] hurdles," Yokotobi said. The facility will house up to three unrelated adults, she indicated; two people are currently living there.

Funded by HOPWA (Housing Opportunities for People With AIDS) and administered by Stanislaus County, the house is in an urban center near Modesto, Yokotobi said. She declined to reveal its exact location.

Management of the house is coordinated by Community Temporary Shelter Service (CTSS). People with AIDS are housed there while they apply for Section Eight certificates for more permanent housing, she said.

HOPWA funds the Stanislaus County Ryan White Care Consortium.

Thus far HOPWA funds to the project are still flowing,

despite continuing uncertainty at the federal level about HOPWA's future, Yokotobi said. ▼

■ For information call Jean Yokotobi, Stanislaus County HIV Coordinator, at (209) 525-7341.

OBITUARIES

Michael J. Nitschke

April 27, 1939 - Feb. 24, 1995
Born under the control of fascist Germany, it took years to escape to the rewards of teaching physics at U.C. Berkeley and windsurfing with the experts of the world. Personal intimacy was limited to a loved chosen few who attended his peaceful and rapid sail onward to the future. His pupils, his professional colleagues and his loving companions will all miss him and bid him bon voyage.

In lieu of flowers, tax deductible contributions can be made to: U.C. Berkeley Foundation J.M. Nitschke Memorial Fund, c/o Mary Hoole, 2440 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, CA 94720. ▼

James F. Wolfe

Dec. 1, 1948 - March 16, 1995

Jim died peacefully at home after a courageous nine-year battle with HIV.

At his side were his partner, Bob; parents, Jim and Dorothy; loving friends and caregivers, Carol, Stephen, Dub and Diane; and his golden retriever, Buster, his constant companion.

Jim is survived by his son, James; brothers, Bill, Ed, Walt and Bob; and sisters, Peg and Dot. We will always be enriched by his enthusiasm for life and his gentle spirit.

With a Ph.D. in chemistry, Jim worked many years for the Stanford Research Institute and most recently as senior staff scientist for Lockheed Missiles and Space. He's the author of numerous patents for his research in polymer chemistry.

Jim was also an accomplished artist and used this talent for the past several years as a member of the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus, providing scenic design and construction for many productions.

Jim's life will be celebrated with a memorial service on Sunday, April 2, at 2:30 p.m. at St. Agnes Church (Masonic at Oak). Donations may be made to Visiting Nurses and Hospice, 3360 Geary Blvd., SF, CA 94118.

Jim, we never thought you'd have to leave the party so soon. ▼

George (Tom) Volenik, DC

April 5, 1944 - March 15, 1995

Doctor of Chiropractic, projectionist, photographer, magician, poet and general all-around wise man, George (Tom) Volenik, beloved by his many patients, friends, family members, theatre-goers and Risk players across the country, has now joined his lover Mark far beyond this world. Tom, buddy, you have loved and been loved widely, and will be sorely missed. For those interested, Tom's favorite charity is the AIDS Emergency Fund. ▼

Ben (William) Goldstein

Jan. 24, 1936 - March 15, 1995

Born in Cheyenne, Wyoming, to Ben and Sarah Goldstein, Ben died in

Sacramento with his partner, Ari, at his side. Loving friends Don and Mary had just said good-bye. Ben was preceded in death by his parents, sister Addie and special buddies Laszlo, Merle and Bill. He is survived by a brother, Irving; sisters, Ruthe and Gertrude; nieces, Sharon, Tara and Dana; other family; special friends, Paul, Jessica, Carol, Grady and Les; and by his faithful Chesapeake Bay retriever, Buster.

After attending the University of Wyoming, Ben called San Francisco home until moving to Sacramento in 1990. A proficient trumpet player, Ben was an early member of the Lesbian/Gay Freedom Band. His passion for music led to employment by the SF Opera as production assistant to then Director Kurt Adler and by the SF Symphony as manager of Halls and Facilities. Ben was thrilled to accompany the symphony on its Asian tour. A lover of collectibles, Ben owned Dancing Bear Antiques in SF and Sacramento.

Donations may be made to any AIDS organization. Ben's memorial gathering will be in Sacramento. For date/location or to submit written recollections about Ben, call Don at 922-6051. ▼

Richard Beck

Dec. 5, 1961 - March 24, 1995

Richard Beck, 33, 5'11", blond hair, mustache and beard, blue eyes, lived in San Francisco in the early 1980s and, after an operation for a stomach ulcer, moved back to Philadelphia, Penn. He died Friday morning, March 24, due to complications from colo-rectal cancer at Pennsylvania Hospital in Philadelphia.

Richard is survived by his mother, Dorothy; an uncle; other relatives; and many friends here, in Philadelphia, many other cities and countries. This dear man with a wonderful sense of humor was loved very much and will be missed by many.

Sympathy cards can be sent to Mrs. Dorothy Beck, 2915 Robbins Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19149-3010 or Mr. Ray Walsh, 2643 Oakley Ave., Ben Salem, PA 19020. Donations in Richard's name may be sent to AIDS Walk, AIDS research or AIDS organizations. ▼

John Scott Linn

June 29, 1963 - March 9, 1995

Scott taught his family and friends a great deal about courage, faith, grace and dignity of spirit. His enthusiasm for life was enormous, and he never let anything as trivial as a medical problem get in the way of volleyball, raspberry truffles or country-western dancing. With his big smile, heart and sense of humor, Scott made friends wherever he went.

Much of his time was spent researching alternative AIDS therapies and sharing the information. In the last several years, he volunteered for two drug studies with the NIH which involved much travel to and from Washington, D.C. Last year he traveled to Europe with his mother and sister, in part to participate in a hyperthermia treatment in Italy.

Scott leaves behind his mother, Roberta Sampson; father, Jack Linn; stepmother, Tricia Linn; stepfather, Don Sampson; brother, Pat Linn; sister, Bobbi McCoy; stepbrothers, Ann Priest, Stacy Lopes, Heidi Sampson and Heather Sipos; stepbrother, Dana Sampson; and many other relatives and countless friends.

There will be a memorial for Scott in Guerneville on Saturday, April 8. Call Dan Van Oist at (415) 826-9656 for more information. ▼

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When Is It Appropriate To Be Naive?

by Mark Bowers ACT UP Golden Gate Writers Pool

Most people who are infected with HIV quickly become familiar with their CD4 and CD8 cell counts and the ratio between the two sets of cells. They quickly learn that HIV is a virus that infects CD4 cells and that they can expect to lose large numbers of CD4 cells if they experience disease progression. CD4 cell counts have been used for many years as "surrogate markers" to gauge the progression of HIV disease and to attempt to predict who will thrive and who will not do well. CD4 counts are also used as endpoints in clinical studies of drugs with anti-HIV properties. Unfortunately, CD4 cell counts are frequently unreliable: some people with very few or no CD4 cells seem to do quite well, while others whose counts are in the hundreds succumb to one opportunistic infection after another.

Researchers have been attempting to devise better ways to track the effects of HIV on the immune system and on the body and have proposed direct measurements of viral load, such as QC PCR (polymerase chain reaction) and b-DNA (branched DNA) assays for such purpose. The utility of direct measures of the amount of virus each individual carries is clear: it should be easier and faster to determine if a given drug has an effect on HIV in an individual. It is important to remember that these tests measure virus

levels, not the responses that the immune system makes to the presence of the virus nor how effective that response might be. Information about the immune system needs to be inspected.

So far, QC PCR and b-DNA tests are not widely available and are very expensive. Furthermore, people with HIV and their physicians rightly ask if such tests are clinically relevant. Do they help us make treatment decisions? Will these predict the appearance of opportunistic infections? Is there not a cheaper, more accessible test? Is the information that is already collected about CD4 and CD8 counts and ratios really irrelevant? If so, how can it be made more relevant?

During a recent Stanford Medical School clinical study of the effects on HIV positive people of N-acetyl cysteine (NAC)7, an antioxidant, Dr. Mario Roederer chose to analyze blood samples for subsets of CD8 cells. He made some surprising findings that will be revealed next month in the *Journal of Clinical Investigation*. CD8 cells are responsible for targeting and destroying virally infected cells, including CD4 cells infected with HIV. Numerous studies indicate that there are high levels of CD8 cells during the asymptomatic period of HIV disease, then levels fall as disease progresses. Roederer has shown that this is not the entire picture: an entire subset of CD8 cells is missing in HIV positive individuals. What does this mean and how can it be fixed?

Roederer explains that there are two classes of T-cells, naive or "uncommitted" T-cells and memory T-cells. Memory T-cells have had an encounter with an antigen, or a foreign substance in the body, and have committed their resources to combating only that antigen and no other. Naive T-cells have not yet seen an enemy, and can recognize and respond to new disease-causing pathogens when they enter the body. Without naive T-cells, the body has no way to recognize and defend against a bacterium, fungus or other microbe that has not been encountered before. It is easy to see how an absence of naive T-cells makes people with HIV more vulnerable to opportunistic infections than HIV people.

Why is there a decline in the number of naive T-cells over the course of progressive HIV disease? Perhaps the first antigen that is encountered by these cells is HIV, which is directly lethal to the cells. Perhaps the constant state of alert that characterizes the immune systems of most people with HIV disease brings about a rapid conversion from naive to memory status. Or it may be that somehow, HIV is able to block the generation of naive T-cells and thus sets up the conditions for increased susceptibility to new infections.

Vaccination is a method of coaching the immune system to respond to a disease that the system has not seen yet. It is logical to predict that, without naive T-cells, vaccines will not be able to create the memory cells that remember antigens and

stand ready to fight them if they should reappear. The vaccines will not work. Roederer reasons that vaccine trial participants should be screened to see if they have enough naive T-cells to allow the vaccine to do its job.

Where can people get measures of their naive T-cells? At present, only the Hersenbergs laboratory at Stanford Medical School is set up to measure naive and memory T-cells. While most commercial clinical laboratories are looking for CD4 and CD8 markers to distinguish between T-helper and T-suppressor cells, Roederer goes one step further. He looks for the markers on T-cells that show whether the cell is a naive or memory cell. It is only a question of recalibrating the tools that are currently used to measure CD4 and CD8 populations and learning a new technique before most labs could provide naive vs. memory ratios and absolute counts. Before that will happen, other researchers will need to validate the technique and decide what the values mean to clinicians. This work is expected to begin very quickly after the publication of the original research next month. ▼

■ **Mark Bowers is a member of ACT UP Golden Gate and the Treatment Hotline Manager at Project Inform. ACT UP Golden Gate meets Tuesday evenings at 7:30 PM at the offices of Mobilization Against AIDS, 584B Castro Street, San Francisco.**

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Gay Sperm Donors Wanted

Lesbians seek Gay Men to play "uncle"

OAKLAND - A new sperm bank, Rainbow Flag Health Services, plans to offer a new service to the Lesbian and Gay community: **known donor insemination**. They are recruiting Gay and Bisexual sperm donors for Lesbians and will tell the mother who the biological father is when the child is 3 months old. Under California law donors have no financial obligations nor any custody rights. Knowing the donor can be very important to the child. Some artificially conceived children start asking about their biological fathers as young as 3 and 4.

Being a known donor gives Gay Men, who do not want to raise children, an opportunity to have children in their lives, connects them to Lesbian families, and helps build community. Many Lesbians want donors to play "uncle" to their children. The demand for known donors is much greater than the supply. Rainbow Flag Health Services is recruiting donors of all ethnic backgrounds. If you are healthy, under 55 years old and are interested in being a known donor call for an appointment

(510)763-7737

Mello

Continued from page 15

pedophiles, and transsexuals?" He really started getting ridiculous. They clearly articulated that no, those people aren't protected because it's not considered a handicap, but HIV is. Quite ironically, even though he was trying to get an exclusion for HIV-positive people, he got the tables turned on him.

A few of the cases that were disturbing were where the courts weren't able to address the discrimination because the plaintiff, the employee who had brought the case, died before they had been heard. There was one case where a Raytheon employee, a man named John Chadbourne, sued the company, and the decision was rendered three years after his death. In the transcripts the lawyers for the company had told them [the court lawyers] to basically beg for time, to stall, because sooner or later, he'll get to be so sick that there'll be no remedy. That actually became public, and I'd be willing to bet that it's happened in a number of other cases - that the company lawyers advised to beg for time and wait it out. Chadbourne's estate, as in so many cases, wound up handling the discrimination claims.

An enormous problem with all the laws, the ADA in particular, is that the judicial process is so, so time-consuming and stressful. Employers and lawyers can make you jump through flaming hoops constantly, throw up obstacles, appeal decisions - you can keep appealing until the cows come home.

It costs a lot of money, too, and if you have been denied employment or dismissed from your job, you don't have a whole hell of a lot of financial resources to be throwing away on lawyers charging a couple

hundred dollars an hour. And if by the time your case is heard, you're too ill to go to work, then it serves little purpose. You may get punitive damages and court and legal fees, but this whole time you have been deprived of income, health benefits and so on. If the employer's truly despicable, he'll keep getting extensions until the employee finally gets very sick. It sucks big time.

You said that there's been a lot of inconsistencies in the court decisions involving AIDS discrimination in the workplace, but, generally, do you think the laws have been working?

Prior to the ADA, it was a crapshoot. If you happened to get a friendly judge or a judge who was open to the issues ... But there was, for instance, a case in Texas, *Brunner vs. Al Attar*. A woman who worked in the office of an auto dealership volunteered at an AIDS service organization, and her employer fired her because he was afraid she was going to come down with AIDS and infect him and his family. The courts upheld that! They said she didn't have protection because she didn't have AIDS herself. She was what they call "an employee at will," and he could fire her for any reason.

As to whether people have generally been protected, I did find an overwhelming trend in my research, which is that the states that have passed laws that prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation have been much more forthright in protecting the rights of people with HIV. There are a number of cases where the employee had not presented an HIV-positive test result, and because of that, the court said, "You're not covered under disability or handicap protection legislation. All you've established is that you're a gay male, and the state doesn't

provide any protection against sexual orientation, so your employer hasn't broken the law."

There was a case, *Petri vs. Bank of New York*. Petri was involved, had a relationship, with another employee of the bank, who had died of AIDS. Obviously, Petri was suspected of potentially having it, but the only thing that was established was that he was gay. The bank fired him, and when he sued, he had no leg to stand on because he hadn't presented an HIV-positive test result [to his employer]. That was an alarming trend in a number of cases. If you'd presented test results, you were protected. If you hadn't, forget it.

So there's definitely an incentive for someone who's tested positive to tell their employer. Of course, it's a double-edged sword, because despite the fact that you get protection from discrimination, there are a million ways that employers can dance around that and make your life miserable. Bottom line is if a company wants to get rid of you, they can find a way to do it legally.

Since the passage of the ADA, has there been a real change in court rulings?

We're waiting to see on that, because there have only been a couple of cases that have come up under the ADA and they haven't broken any new ground. They just reiterated some things that were handled under the previous laws.

The big issue with the ADA is that there are a whole number of loopholes in it, and the single biggest problem is that the ADA exempts insurers from its provisions. In other words, if you're an insurance company, you can discriminate because it's part of the underwriting process in assessing risks. The big issue becomes what happens when

Continued on page 22



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By Kevin Thomas

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It's Palm Springs. Well, from the point of view of the Conde' Nast Traveler, a travel magazine. According to the 14-page spread in the September '94 issue, Palm Springs is "fast becoming the hippest destination on the map".

"It's hot... it's back, it's Palm Springs." "a substancial gay community thrives here." Return to Palm Springs for a trip back in time when the American Dream is alive and well. The shopkeepers along Palm Canyon Drive openly welcome us. Thursday night's Villagefest offers an opportunity to gather along Palm Canyon Drive for

a weekly street fair, offering some great people watching (cruising). The gay entertainment community has come together to offer you the best selection of activities for a hot desert night. If you haven't been to Palm Springs lately, it's new and exciting.

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PALM SPRINGS CALIFORNIA

Flight to Fantasy

by Michael C. Botkin

Some national gay magazines have declared a new trend: a flight of homosexuals to the suburbs. The traditional gay ghettos, according to these reports, are emptying fast as queers flee their pricey premises in pursuit of the safety and comfort of suburbia. The belief in this supposed demographic shift really represents a flight to fantasy, wishful thinking by advocates of assimilation, as well as a blatant bid for mainstream advertising dollars.

Mind you, I don't actually buy these glossy rags, but I always respond to their "try-one-issue-free" come-ons. I've been flooded by these since I signed the damned list at the last March on Washington. "We need your name to get an accurate count," the parade functionary insisted, brandishing a clipboard. "Bullshit," my partner answered. "You're just going to sell our names to merchandisers." I signed; he didn't, and I've been buried under Lavender Junk Mail ever since, plus the March organizers never did get around to releasing that supposedly essential head count.

By chance I got issues of two magazines - the Los Angeles-based *Advocate* and the New

York City-based *Out* - on the same day. It was hard to tell them apart; both had articles on the gay flight to the suburbs, and both had Gingrich on the cover (one had Newt, the other his lesbian sister Candace). Did one mag copy the other? Do they really share such a narrow mindset? Or were both responding to pressures from advertisers to reach out to suburban buyers?

I'm rarely satisfied with media portrayals of gays and PWAs, and I expect a certain minimum amount of distortion in the mainstream press. But I was alarmed to see such warped and inaccurate representation of queers in gay magazines. Either they're shamelessly pursuing advertising dollars or, even more upsetting, they're badly out of touch with the community they supposedly represent and serve. Their "flight to suburbia" articles tell us a lot more about the illusions and assumptions of the publishers of the gay slicks than they do about the demographics of the gay and lesbian community.

Low-rent queers

It's true that gay and lesbian couples who want to buy a home often find that the local gay ghetto is far too expensive. These ghettos usually start out as marginal bohemian neighbor-

hoods. A few queers buy in early, and following on the heels of tasteful shops and restaurants, the region "gentrifies" at amazing speed. The lucky homos who bought in at the beginning of the process reap huge gains in equity, but the late-comers are likely to find themselves locked out of the market.

When my partner and I went house hunting, it was clear from the start that the Castro was out of the question for us. None of the dozen or so local homo homeowners I know bought into the Castro or ever considered it

Commentary

a serious possibility.

But home-buying queer couples are, obviously, a pretty small subset of the general community. This salient detail was largely overlooked in both magazines' articles. Lavender Dollarists simply don't care about low-rent queers; only the A-gays have large enough discretionary incomes to interest the advertisers they seek. The 90 percent or so of the gay community that can't even consider buying a house is simply invisible to them.

Gay youth are also invisible

to them, and both articles ignore the most prominent fact relating to gays and the suburbs: namely that the former flee the latter as soon as we have the resources to do so. The overwhelming majority of gay and lesbian teenagers reared in the suburbs head for their local Gay Urban Mecca like bats out of hell when they come of age, and they never look back.

They do this for a number of reasons, but mostly because of the stultifying uniformity demanded by suburban communities. The A-gays interviewed for the magazine articles had no trouble fitting into their quaint neighborhoods, but that was because all of them were white, middle-aged, middle-class and assimilated. Housing prices may lure such homosexuals to the 'burbs, but just about everything else drives just about everyone else to the relative shelter of the ghetto.

Assimilate A-gays

The queer community has for some time been vacillating between a pressure to assimilate and an urge to separate. A culture too adept at assimilation soon ceases to exist, but one too resistant to it risks devolving into an isolated backwater. Gays and lesbians have the additional issue of the closet, the ultimate in assimilation and invisibility. It is difficult to strike a stable compromise between the integrity and openness of separation and the comfort and benefits of assimilation.

Every homosexual seeks their own personal balance, some with more success than others. But the rules are set by the larger culture, which sometimes scorns our attempts to assimilate. Within that framework, the gay community has tilted first one way and then another. At its inception at Stonewall in 1969, the gay community was blatantly nationalistic; indeed, it could scarcely have forced its way into existence if it hadn't been.

By the mid-70s the balance

swung the other way, as integrationist hopes swelled and pro-gay legislation was launched. But Anita Bryant and the assassination of Harvey Milk reversed that trend by the end of the decade. This surge of activism and gay nationalism faded under the pall of the Reagan years and devastation wreaked by AIDS. By the mid-80s gay activism looked dead forever.

Then ACT UP burst on the scene, a backlash against the growing repression fueled by the fact that thousands of supposedly well-assimilated establishment queers suddenly found themselves forcibly ejected from the mainstream by their HIV status. A queer national upsurge ensued, as homosexual hopes of assimilation dimmed. In the past few years, the balance has been shifting back toward attempts at integration, despite a lack of support from the general political climate.

This struggle to find a balance is a difficult one, and the publishers of the gay slicks make a mockery of the task by plumping, without reservation or consideration, entirely on the side of assimilation. The simple fact is that their advertisers want assimilate readers, not nationalists. The income to be had from pushing rainbow paraphernalia is dwarfed by the profits which flow from pushing booze, cars and cigarettes.

This has forced the publishers of the gay slicks to choose between pleasing the readers and pleasing the advertisers, and it's painfully apparent where they ended up. The net result is magazines that appeal to straight advertisers a lot more than they do to gay readers. Ghetto-dwelling, nationalistic queers are simply not interested in a collection of slick ads garnished with mainstream pap. And assimilate A-gays, one presumes, can simply subscribe to *Better Homes and Gardens* and/or *Sunset* directly rather than to some lavender-tinted imitation of them. ▼

Mello

Continued from page 20

the employer and the insurer are one and the same.

What a lot of smaller companies are doing now, because health insurance costs are so exorbitant, is that they're providing their own insurance. They're becoming what we call self-insured employers. So now the ADA says, "Employer, you can't discriminate, but insurer, you can." When the employer is also the insurer, there are ways of working around the law.

Unfortunately, there was a landmark case that the Supreme Court refused to hear a year ago, a Texas case once again, *McGann vs. H & H Music Co.* The employer put a cap of, I believe, \$5,000 on AIDS-related benefits and treatments after an employee had come down with the disease. The employee sued, but the courts basically said that the employer wasn't breaking the law because another law that covers employee benefit plans, ERISA (Employee Retirement Income Security Act), says that benefits are at the discretion of the employer and any employer can change them or cancel them

at any time, for any reason. Believe it or not.

Are we in a kind of limbo because of the Supreme Court refusal to hear the McGann case?

Absolutely. If you pick up legal/law review articles that deal with this, they'll begin by basically saying, "Someone please step in and give us some direction, because this is a huge oversight in the law that wasn't addressed."

This seems to aid and abet the whole inconsistency problem. Any judge or jury could go in any direction they wanted.

It's true. Fortunately, in the Bay Area, we're pretty insulated from that. For the most part our large employers, and even some of the smaller ones, are very gay-friendly, AIDS-friendly, and they're not going to screw anyone over. Employers will do things here that they're not required to do by law. However, when you get to North Carolina, Texas, Iowa, you're fucked. One thing I've found living in San Francisco is that some of us take for granted how many of our freedoms and liberties are guaranteed. ▼

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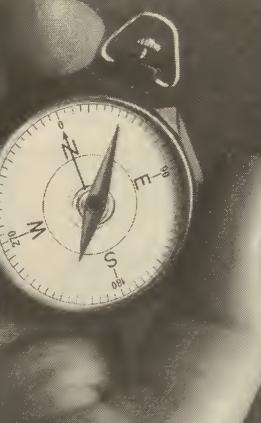
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Bereavement Support Group for Partners of PWAs. Also: Coping with Multiple Loss Support Group. Sponsored by Visiting Nurses and Hospice of SF. 750-4404 x 21680.

Boy + Boy: actions which promote safe sex among young gay and bi men. Tues., 7pm at Stop AIDS Project, 201 Sanchez. 575-1545 xBOY.

Haight-Ashbury Free Clinics' Drug Detox, Rehabilitation and Aftercare Program, counseling and HIV education, free. Hector, 565-1909.

Healing Alternatives Foundation maintains public HIV/AIDS Treatment & Resource Library. Also Buyer's Club for health products. 1748 Market St. Info: 626-4053.

Hepatitis "B" Testing and vaccinations for young (15-23) gay and bisexual men, free. Berkeley Free Clinic, 2339 Durant Ave., Berkeley. Sun., 5-7pm. (510) 644-0425.

HIV/AIDS Services at Operation Concern: Ongoing support groups, individual and couples counseling, drop-in groups every week. Issues for HIV- men, men with AIDS/ARC, partners and survivors. For information/intake, call Jill, 626-7000 x199. Operation Concern, 1853 Market St.

Immune Enhancement Project treats persons with HIV-related illness using a program of traditional Chinese medicine and herbal supplements. Info: 252-8711.

Intergenerational Relationships Support Group for gay men of all ages. Beginning mid-April. Info: 863-4532.

Isis Center: Women's counseling and recovery services for women with HIV, no/low fee. 333 Valencia St. Info: 864-2364.

Lambda Youth and Family Empowerment Program (LYFE): Peer support and mentoring programs for lesbian/gay/ bisexual/ transgender youth. 565-7681.

Legal Services for Children's H.O.P.E. Project provides social and legal services to low-income HIV affected families. Info: 863-3762.

Lesbian/Bisexual Women's Rap Group: Open to women of all ages, drop in every Tues., 7pm, except first Tues. of each month. Spectrum, Center for Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Concerns, 1000 St Francis Drake Blvd., San Anselmo. Info: Lea, 457-1115, ext. 201.

Lesbian Recovering Couples Anonymous: meets Sundays, 4:5-30pm, 1265 Sanchez St. Singles and couples welcome. Info:

Línea de Ambiente: Information, referral and emotional support for gay, lesbian and bi latinos regarding immigration.

tion, HIV, social services, a project of Gente Latina de Ambiente (GELAAM). 243-9534.

Lyon-Martin Women's Health Center: Primary health care for women by women. Counseling, anonymous testing, prevention education, support groups for HIV + women. 1748 Market St. 565-7667.

LYRIC Youth Talkline seeks volunteers, especially people of color, transgenders and people under 18. Call Anne or Olga, 703-6150.

Mammogram Screening: free, Fri., April 7, 9am-4pm. Maxine Hall Health Center, 1301 Pierce St. 292-1300.

MCC Chronic/Life-Threatening Support Group: Every Wed., 12:30-2:30pm, in the MCC chapel, 150 Eureka St. Free, drop-in. Call 863-4434.

Most Holy Redeemer AIDS Support Group offers ongoing support groups for the HIV community, partners, friends and family. No fees. 863-1581.

National Association for Visually Handicapped helps people with partial eyesight by supplying visual aids, a free service for SF residents who are HIV+ and losing eyesight. Call for appt.: 221-3201.

Native American AIDS Project: Support, resources and advocacy for Native Americans/ Alaskan Natives and their families affected by HIV. 1540 Market St., Suite 425. Info/intake: 522-2460.

Pacific Center, the gay lesbian bisexual community center for the East Bay, seeks volunteer facilitators for HIV/AIDS support groups. Training provided. 2712 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. Call Richard, (510) 548-8283.

Planetree Health Resource Center Up-to-date medical info to assist in making informed health choices. Extensive consumer health library, current medical lit clippings & health bookstore. Also support groups, health information service by mail. 2040 Webster St. 923-3680.

Pride & Prejudice: a welcoming group to queer youth meets every Tues., 6pm, at Lyon-Martin Women's Health Services, 1748 Market St., Suite 201. Call Nicole at 565-7681.

Project Inform Town Mtg.: What You Can Do About HIV Disease, Wed., April 5, 7:30pm, free. MCC, 150 Eureka. 558-9051.

Project Open Hand provides free home-delivered hot meals and free groceries to anyone with symptomatic HIV in San Francisco and Alameda Counties. Various ethnic and restricted diets available, plus free nutritional counseling. No waiting list. Call 1-800-551-MEAL.

Q. Action: Work with other queer boys to stop HIV transmission among young gay and bi men. Info: 621-7177.

Qi Gong for Health: \$1 per class. Mon., Wed., 5:30pm. 50 Oak St., 3rd fl. 255-0265.

Qi Gong for People with HIV: \$1 per class. Mon., Wed., 11am; Thurs. 6pm. American College of Traditional Chinese Medicine Community Clinic, 450 Connecticut St. Info: 282-9603.

Quan Yin Healing Arts Center Non-profit clinic provides affordable acupuncture & Chinese herbal therapies; treatment for people living with HIV, chronic hepatitis, PMS & other gynecological imbalances. Stop Smoking Clinic. Tues.-Fri., 1-6:30 pm, Sat. 9 am-3 pm. 861-4964.

Radical Women: Business mtg, 2nd & 4th Thurs. of the month. 7pm. Valencia Hall, 523-A Valencia St. 864-1278.

Sadhana Brothers is a fellowship of gay men pursuing Hindu-based spiritual practices, meeting several times a month. Call Ed, 647-4388.

SF Gay & Lesbian Immigration and Asylum Rights Task Force meets first Thurs. of every month, 7pm, 870 Market St., Rm. 1213. Offers support groups for gay immigrants and their lovers, friends. Shannon, 862-6257.

San Francisco Women Against Rape holds a rape crisis counselor training in April and May. Call Jamie, 861-2024.

San Mateo County AIDS Program: provides prevention, health care, services and advocacy. Volunteer Resources Coordinator: 573-2488. Information: 573-2588.

Stanford Support Group for Gay Men: Wed., 8pm at the Lesbian, Gay & Bisexual Community Center, Old Firehouse, Stanford Univ. Free. 725-4222.

The Transcendental Meditation Center has scholarships for low income people with HIV. Call Paul Brown at 931-1621.

We Care Bay Area provides emergency financial support to individuals affected by AIDS and other serious illnesses. Requests must be made thru a Bay Area outreach or social service agency. Info: 282-1911.

Women's Action Coalition is an open alliance of women committed to direct action on issues affecting the rights of all women. WAC meets 1st & 3rd Tuesdays, 7:30 pm (women only), 1360 Mission St., Suite 200. WAC Hotline: 255-6352.

Women's Cancer Resource Center: Support, resource & advocacy group for Bay Area women with cancer, their friends, families & doctors. Provides individual peer counseling & drop-in support groups, newsletter, educational programs, legal workshop & more. (510) 548-9272 or 548-WCRC. 3023 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley.

Send Health and Community Listings to: Calendar Editor, Bay Area Reporter, 395 Ninth Street, SF, CA 94103.

Montana

Continued from page 1

Gay and Lesbian Task Force leader Melinda Paras, who called the measure "unprecedented in its extreme persecution of gay men and lesbians."

"Our phones were ringing off the hook as gay men and lesbians around the nation woke to the horrifying news that a

state legislative body was moving to swiftly target them for monitoring and registration by police," Paras said.

In San Francisco, NGLTF media spokesman Robert Bray mobilized a major West Coast media response and alerted thousands of American Online subscribers to protest the measure. Angry lesbian and gay activists around the country mobilized phone tree, e-mail, and fax campaigns to register their outrage with

Montana legislators.

The day after the initial Senate action Governor Marc Racicot announced that he would veto the bill; by that time, according to state legislative officials, protest calls had overwhelmed the state's ability to conduct its legislative affairs.

At the height of the protest, Racicot's office was receiving more than 100 telephone calls an hour, many of them calls from the media.

Activists who called Montana officials also told them a boycott of the state was imminent — as were plans by radical activists to visit the state en masse and demand to be registered under the measure.

After the anti-gay measure was reversed, Supervisor Carole Migden told the *Bay Area Reporter* that the measure was defeated because it "was unconscionable and absolutely unacceptable to the majority of Americans." ▀

LEGAL NOTICES

FICTION BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 193955

The following person(s) are doing business as SUPER INFO HIGHWAY, 325 Lakeview Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94112: FRANCIS LEE, 325 Lakeview Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94112. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of March 08, 1995. This business is conducted by individual. Signed FRANCIS LEE. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on March 08, 1995.

March 16, 23, 30, 1995 April 06, 1995

FICTION BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 193871

The following person(s) are doing business as AVT SOFTWARE CO., 4110 Geary Blvd., Suite 204, San Francisco, CA 94118: LILY TONG, 2207 27th Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94118. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of March 06, 1995. This business is conducted by individual. Signed LILY TONG. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on March 06, 1995.

March 16, 23, 30, 1995 April 06, 1995

FICTION BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 193835

The following person(s) are doing business as THE JANISSEN GROUP, 665 Chestnut Street, 3rd Floor, San Francisco, CA 94133: JOHN J. LISTON, 900 Ridge Road, Laytonville, CA 95454. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of March 03, 1995. This business is conducted by individual. Signed JOHN J. LISTON. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on March 03, 1995.

March 9, 16, 23, 30, 1995

FICTION BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 193898

The following person(s) are doing business as TELEK COMMUNICATION, 880 Franklin Street, #307, San Francisco, CA 94102: INGRID B. KREIS, 880 Franklin Street, #307, San Francisco, CA 94102. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of November 16, 1994. This business is conducted by individual. Signed INGRID B. KREIS. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on March 07, 1995. 1995, April 06, 1995.

March 16, 23, 30, 1995 April 06, 1995

FICTION BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 194382

The following person(s) are doing business as VALENCIA CREPES AND COFFEE, 1007 14th Valencia Street, San Francisco, CA 94111: HAN JWEINAT, 8 Verano Drive, San Francisco, CA 94080. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of March 27, 1995. This business is conducted by individual. Signed HAN JWEINAT. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on March 27, 1995.

March 30, 1995 April 06, 13, 20, 1995

FICTION BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 193931

The following person(s) are doing business as KRETLOW ENTERPRISES, 2633 30th Avenue, San Francisco: LYNDY M KRETLOW, 2633 30th Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94116. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of N/A. This business is conducted by individual. Signed LYNDY M. KRETLOW. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on February 16, 1995.

March 16, 23, 30, 1995 April 06, 1995

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF FICTION BUSINESS STATEMENT FILE NO. 0154312

The following person has abandoned the use of the fictitious business known as SENIOR TOURS UNLIMITED, at 149 Turk Street, San Francisco, CA 94102. The fictitious name referred to above was filed in the County of San Francisco, on August 28, 1991.

Name and address of registrants: WALTER T. JOHNSON, 155 Turk Street, #101, San Francisco, CA 94102 and CHRIS A. MUELLER, 155 Turk Street, #101, San Francisco, CA 94102. This business was conducted by a co-partners. Signed: WALTER T. JOHNSON.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of San Francisco County on date February 28, 1995. Bruce H. Jamison, County Clerk-Recorder, by Keith Wong.

March 16, 23, 30, 1995 April 06, 1995

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF FICTION BUSINESS STATEMENT FILE NO. 0154312

The following person has abandoned the use of the fictitious business known as YOUNG TUNA TACO FOOD, Pier 35, San Francisco, CA 94107: Agatupu Lefao Jr., 1061 Trestle Glen Road, Oakland, CA 94610 and SELINA REYES, 1061 Trestle Glen Road, Oakland, CA 94610. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of N/A. This business is conducted by individual. Signed SELINA REYES. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on March 07, 1995.

March 16, 23, 30, 1995 April 06, 1995

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LEGAL NOTICES**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 193773**

The following person(s) are doing business as **BAY AREA IMMUNE RESEARCH**, 236 West Portal Avenue, Suite 529, San Francisco, CA 94127: **BAY AREA IMMUNE RESEARCH**, 236 West Portal Avenue, Suite 529, San Francisco, CA 94127. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of February 10, 1995. This business is conducted by individual. Signed **SHARON O'LEARY**, Vice President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on February 10, 1995.

March 9, 16, 23, 30, 1995

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 193482

The following person(s) are doing business as **LESLIE'S HAIR & NAILS**, 1545 Fillmore Street, San Francisco, CA 94115: **TRUONG CUONG LUNG**, 1367 Brussels Street, San Francisco, CA 94134. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of February 21, 1995. This business is conducted by individual. Signed **TRUANG CUONG**. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on February 21, 1995.

March 9, 16, 23, 30, 1995

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 194008

The following person(s) are doing business as **M.B.R. MEDICAL SPECIALTY PRODUCTS**, 421 Hickory Street, San Francisco, CA 94102: **M.B.R. MEDICAL SPECIALTY PRODUCTS**, 421 Hickory Street, San Francisco, CA 94102. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of March 10, 1995. This business is conducted by individual. Signed **MARIE RAND**. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on March 10, 1995.

March 16, 23, 30, 1995, April 6, 1995.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 193716

The following person(s) are doing business as **SENIOR TOURS, INC.**, 149 Turk St., San Francisco, CA 94102: **SENIOR TOURS, INC.**, 149 Turk St., San Francisco, CA 94102. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of February 28, 1995. This business is conducted by individual. Signed **JOSEPH P. SHORE**, Vice President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on February 28, 1995.

March 9, 16, 23, 30, 1995

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 193767

The following person(s) are doing business as **ABOUT JANITORIAL SERVICE**, 241 Yale Street, San Francisco, CA 94134: **OLIE McDOWELL**, 241 Yale Street, San Francisco, CA 94134. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of March 15, 1995. This business is conducted by individual. Signed **OLIE McDOWELL**. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on March 15, 1995.

March 9, 16, 23, 30, 1995

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 193737

The following person(s) are doing business as **ARIES PRODUCTIONS**, 421 Hickory Street, San Francisco, CA 94102: **RAINEY J. MATTHEWS JR.**, 421 Hickory Street, San Francisco, CA 94102. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of N/A. This business is conducted by individual. Signed **RAINEY J. MATTHEWS JR.**. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on February 28, 1995.

March 9, 16, 23, 30, 1995

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Photo: Falcon Studios

Making Waves

Greg Louganis' Biggest Challenge

by Arie Schwartz

Watching Greg Louganis practice dive at Fort Lauderdale's Swimming Hall of Fame, one would be hard pressed to believe the 35-year-old diving champion had a care in the world. One moment he's the kid next door, playfully diving off the board, knees out of sync, a huge grin on his face as he splashes hard into the water. The next dive, Louganis is the consummate perfectionist: back arched and head tucked in, his arms spear him into the water with barely a splash.

Despite his recent revelation that he has AIDS, Louganis is, by his own account, currently in a better psychological state of mind than he has ever

Continued on page 36



High-strung femme meets multicultural Rachel

'Bar Girls': Drinking Problems

by Erin Blackwell

Bar Girls, this year's lesbian feature with crossover ambitions, is a low-concept film that grew up to be a marketing coup. It is also possibly, just possibly, a laugh riot at its own expense. If, that is, anybody's amused by a film set in a bar in which the effects of alcohol go totally ignored. In other words, this film is so bad that nobody hoping for an innovative/insightful depiction of lesbian

Continued on page 32



Stars of the forthcoming Sick and Twisted production, *The Stepford Wives*, directed by Tony Vaguely. (Photo by Marc Geller.)



Vaguely and Friends Move to New Theatre, Expand Shows Labors of Love

by Jerry Metzker

In a 1975 review of the film *The Stepford Wives*, film critic Pauline Kael wrote, "The idea of a quiet, undeclared all-out war of men against their wives has perverse charm, and satirical possibilities leap to mind." Naturally, Kael proceeded to rip the film to shreds because it took itself too seriously. Which makes one wonder what Kael would think of local theater wizard Tony Vaguely's stage version of *The Stepford Wives*, which comes to life at the New Conservatory Theatre next week under the auspices of his alternative performance troupe, The Sick and Twisted Players.

How the show will fare critically is anybody's guess, but one thing is for certain: nobody will accuse Vaguely's production of taking itself too seriously. In typical Sick and Twisted fashion, the unintentionally shlocky, gory and campy potential of the film will be mined for all it's worth in the stage version. Bad taste, without regrets, will prevail.

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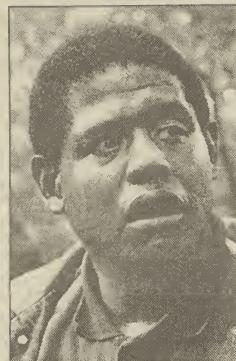




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by Clark Kent
and Connie Casserole

Remember Kiki Galaxy's fabulous farewell exhibition, a tribute to Yoko Ono called "This Is Not Her"? The show's curators, Wayne Smith and Rick Jacobsen, thought it was just some stoned teenager playing a prank when John & Yoko offspring Sean Ono called Kiki's answering machine to thank them for being nice to his mom. But all doubts were erased the next day when La Ono herself called, saying "This is her," and letting go with one of her trademark shrieks. Evidently Yoko's clipping service tipped her off to the show, and now the Ono household has ten copies of the catalog on order. Writer Roberto Friedman wonders whether his love poem to Sean, included within, will elicit another spirited response.

Queens And Commoners: Connie watches daytime television occasionally just to verify her feel-

ings of cultural superiority over the masses. Home sick last week with a pesky cold, she channel-surfed past *The Jerry Springer Show* only to return moments later, unable to resist the "Men Who Work as Female Impersonators" episode. Both *Barbra Streisand* and *Judy Garland* received standing ovations from the studio audience. As a finale, Jerry Springer joined in for a duet with Judy on "I'm Always Chasing Rainbows." Connie herself has been known to do a mean *Helen Reddy*.

Franco-Polish director Agnieszka Holland is back in action, surprising news for those of us who thought she'd never survive the tidal wave of contempt that greeted her 1992 mess *Olivier Olivier*. As crappy as that flick was, she may redeem herself with *Total Eclipse*, about the conflicted queer relationship between Gallic poets Rimbaud and Paul Verlaine. The film stars cute-beyond belief Leonardo DiCaprio as Rimbaud and David Thewlis as Verlaine. According to *Variety*, the film's U.S. distributor, New Line, may have to do some cutting as the pic features full frontal shots of Rimbaud washing himself and "fairly explicit, if artfully shot, lovemaking between Rimbaud and Verlaine." Look for this one in August.

That journalistic bastion of profits-before-people, *The Wall Street Journal*, gave a surprisingly positive review to Lawrence Rinder and Nayland Blake's queer art show at the University Art Museum, "In A Different Light." Critic David Littlejohn called the show "muddled, perplexing and incomplete," also "bewildering, occasionally shocking" but "ultimately mind-bending." We'd like to bend a few more Wall Street noggins.

Ready To Die: Karl Lagerfeld, incensed over a line in *Robert Altman's* nuclear accident *Ready to Wear* has successfully halted the film's release in Germany one week before it was scheduled to open there. According to *Variety*, Lagerfeld was insulted when the character played by Forest Whitaker calls the German fashion designer "a thief." Lagerfeld is not seeking damages but has asked that the offending remark be cut from the film.

We Feel Pretty: Clark had a glance at *USA Today* last week (the stewardess was handing them out for free). In an item about his new show, *NewsRadio*, former *Kids in the Hall* comic Dave Foley (who has spent a lot of his career in drag) explained that transvestism "is not one of his [new character's] traits and boy am I glad! You have no idea how uncomfortable it is to sit in the dressing room for three hours with fake breasts connected to your body while people try dresses on you. It doesn't make you feel very pretty." But you make lots of money, don't you?

Foley also makes reference to his role as Pat's partner of indeterminate gender in the ill-fated movie, *It's Pat*. "I was the more feminine of the two and Disney thought they got a lesbian love story." Whatever. We always liked Scott Thompson better. We'll be waiting for the feature version of *Kids in the Hall*, currently in development at Paramount.

Judy, Judy, Judy: *USA Today's* laser disc critic Mike Clark excitedly reports that MGM/UA has released a new five-disc boxed set, *Judy Garland, The Golden Years at MGM*. And, he breathlessly claims, Criterion has just debuted Powell and Pressburger's 1948 classic, *The Red Shoes*, complete with an alternate soundtrack overview of the film's production history and a look at Martin Scorsese's personal collection of *Red Shoes* wallpaper! When will someone release Roger Ebert's personal collection of Judy paper dolls?

Imitation Of Life: Jennifer Montgomery's long-awaited feature, *Art for Teachers and Children* has premiered to warm reviews at this month's New York's New Directors/New Films series. The autobiographical story of a young girl's sexual relationship with an older male photographer is based on Montgomery's experiences with photographer Jock Sturges. As one of New York's most esteemed lesbian experimental

filmmakers, Montgomery has stunned audiences for years with her stark evocations of female sexuality and violence. We'll expect to see this one showing up at the SF International Straight Film Festival if *Frameline* doesn't get their hands on it first.

Speaking Of Lesbians: Our friends in New York say that the latest craze to hit the clubs is something called "Nelling" (as in "yoguing"). Inspired by *Jodie Foster's* portrayal of the titular wild child, Nelling involves speaking in barely decipherable phrases and having your friends guess what you're trying to say. Connie's been doing it every night after dinner for years—she tips over her glass and says, "nuthin dink."

The San Francisco Treat: Buy your tickets now to see *Faith No More* at The Warfield on April 24th. FNM's keyboardist, Roddy Bottum, is profiled in April's *Out* magazine. "Being from San Francisco, we're all sort of jaded—no one's fazed by anything there, so whenever I'd fly anywhere, I'd fly my San Francisco lifestyle with me. I'm now realizing that not everybody has it as easy as I do living there." Maybe while he's home safe here in SF, Roddy will tell us details of the "backstage horror stories" of FNM's last tour with *Guns n' Roses*.

Diving For Dykes: We haven't seen it yet, but we know the girls will follow it anywhere. The new *Muffdive* at the CW Saloon is happening this Sunday and every Sunday (yes, *Junkyard* and *Zanne* are truly the queer Dick Clarks of this generation). Look for the usual suspects and the new dykes in town cruising the dance floor and leaning against the cigarette machine looking study.

Junkyard's day job as Festival Co-Programmer at *Frameline* is keeping her damn busy these days, and she's pulling in all the big new girlie features. (Although not the *tres LA Bar Girls*, which opens tomorrow night at the Castro at 7 p.m. with star *Liza D'Agostino* and writer/producer *Lauran Hoffman* in attendance).

Mother lesbian cinema news, our pal *Mickey Ehrenzweig* recently gave us the buzz on his latest feature project (he's working with his equally charming partner *Wendy Braitman*, of course). With Mickey and Wendy pro-

Continued on page 31

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Acclaimed Lesbian Author Calls Work Experimental The Gifts of Rebecca Brown

by Lucy Jane Bledsoe

After reading several Rebecca Brown books with dark themes of betrayal and corruption, one can't help but conjure an image of the woman as being smart, real smart, deadly serious, maybe, with a postmodern twist.

Meeting her in person is a surprise. Though she's as intense as her fiction, her playful humor, wry energy, and passion for lesbo punk bands is downright charming. "I'm the world's biggest Team Dresch fan," Brown says. "And *Girl With a Hundred Heads* is totally great. Oh, yeah, *Bikini Kill* and *Hole* are also great."

The breadth of Brown's knowledge, from '90s lesbo punk music to world history, and her ability to cut through layers of information to what really matters, are what make Brown's work brilliant.

Her most recent novel, *The Gifts of the Body* (HarperCollins, 1994), which has just been announced as a finalist for the Lambda Book Award, is a stunningly simple book about the enormous topic of death. Death is easiest to think about, to write about, in broad spiritual terms. But Brown doesn't pussyfoot around on the much-trod spiritual plain. Instead, the story's narrator, a caregiver for people with AIDS, becomes intimate with the details of (failing) bodily functions. She relates each tear, each drop of sweat, each fluttering eyelash, each breath drawn, each pill swallowed.

The beauty of *Gifts* is that it tells the truth about death. And in so doing, it turns the misery of death on its head, reminding us not just what there is to lose but what gifts we the living have, gifts so transparent they are often taken for granted. Anyone who has watched a friend die will be grateful for Brown's detailed honesty, the calm simplicity of her narrator's compassion, in short, for her refusal to turn away from what happens to us when we die.

Worldly woman

Each of Brown's five published titles tackles its topic with

the verve and unblinking honesty of *Gifts*. Though rarely *fun* reads, each of her books is fascinating. Her first book, a collection of short fiction, *The Evolution of Darkness*, was published in 1984 by Jeanette Winterson, who was then an editor at a British gay and lesbian publishing house called Brilliance. Her first novel, *The Haunted House*, was also first published in Great Britain (by Picador) in 1986, then picked up by Viking in the United States and reissued a few years later by Seal Press.

Brown's early work did much better abroad than it did in the United States. She explains, "I wasn't writing social realism about how I'd come out and conquered the world of men." When Picador sent her a plane ticket to tour Great Britain with *The Haunted House*, she snapped up the opportunity. Brown lived and worked in England and then in Florence for over five years. Looking back on the experience, she says, "It was very necessary for me artistically and psychologically. It was much easier to be a lesbian and a writer over there."

Brown wrote *The Children's Crusade* while living in England and *The Terrible Girls* while living in Florence. She returned to the United States in 1990. While in England, *The Children's Crusade* was named a finalist for *The Guardian Fiction Prize*, but was later withdrawn because Brown isn't a citizen of the British Commonwealth.

In 1992, City Lights published *The Terrible Girls*, followed by *Annie Oakley's Girl* in 1993. Both books were well-received and sold out, establishing Brown as a literary voice in the United States and abroad. Brown credits this success to editor Amy Scholder's excellent packaging, marketing, and promotion of the books.

Brown's work is, by her own definition, experimental. By that she means, "I don't have a real strong sense of what a story or novel 'should' be, either formally or contentwise. It's a lot about exploration, both of my own psyche and of the artform that comes out of that particular story. At the same time, my stories and novels are traditional in

nominated for Best Short Documentary. We both have our fingers crossed for them.

Hera Caen in the Mission: Sipping from a froth-swathed bowl of steamed milk generously dusted with chocolate, we tried paying attention to our five o'clock date, but peripheral excitement got the best of us. Daphne Scholinski hammering nails to the right of us and Renate — just Renate — on a ladder to the left in a pair of tattered jeans were hanging their artistic statements on Red Dora's Bearded Lady's undulating plastered walls. There, pardon the expression, until tax day, you'll find as fine an expression of institutionalized (butch) angst as has ever stared across a crowded room at earthy (femme) angels. ▼

With *Clan Destine*, *Otter Outrage*, *Hera Caen* and *Siddharta Gautama*



Rebecca Brown

that they do have identifiable characters, action, and emotional depth. My books are not written so that some deconstructivist will say what an interesting book I've written. I want to excite readers emotionally, intellectually, and artistically."

Extremes of imagination

While much of Brown's work is emotional allegory, she is also adept at writing fine narrative stories, such as *The Gifts of the Body* or the short story "A Good Man," which appears in

Women on Women 2 and in *Annie Oakley's Girl*. Brown believes that both her experimental and her straightforward work come from the same emotional place, but in the experimental stories, she's exploring her own interior rather than someone else's. "In *Gifts* I'm trying to understand lives I see from the outside. The more alliterative and weird stuff is me inside my own psyche, looking at my monsters. I'm able to do that with more craziness and humor than when I'm writing about someone else. I can play with that more."

Brown's best experimental work grapples with the extremes of the imagination. But she takes that grappling a step further than just saying, "Wow, look how weird this stuff is." She addresses the role of the imagination in our lives and how it not only gives pleasure but can be abused and abuse in return. In "Annie," the title story of *Annie Oakley's Girl*, Brown explores a child/adult's obsession with an imaginary cowgirl. At the end of the story, the narrator and her Cowgirl, Annie, are on an airplane: "In the first class compartment Annie orders daiquiri after daiquiri. She experiments with different flavors — banana, peach, lime. I don't know whether to pray that

they show a Western, or pray that they don't. We're on our way to Hollywood to negotiate the rights to her biography. She's never been drunk before."

In other words, not only has the imaginary cowgirl been utterly corrupted, but the narrator is complicit in the corruption of her own vision.

Brown is an author who dares to take risks in spite of the bottom line, who writes what she needs to say rather than what the market wants to hear. Which means you won't necessarily love everything she writes. They aren't those kinds of books. But the Brown stories that do speak deeply to you remain in the mind for a long, long time.

What is Brown working on now? "More of the very interior metaphorical psychological can-we-be-redempted stuff," she says.

Besides writing fiction and haunting punk clubs in Seattle, Brown teaches fiction classes for adults at the University of Washington Extension. She says she's comfortable in Seattle, and by the sound of it, she'll stick around awhile. "I'm so excited about what's going on in writing now and in music, especially new girls' bands. I think the '90s are so open and welcoming, I'm glad to be around for them." ▼

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Les Bureau is the Angel. Photography by Adams Heiser.

'Bar Girls'

Continued from cover

lives/loves should go anywhere near any theater whose screen it darkens. Don't say I didn't warn you.

Bar Girls features a high-strung femme, Loretta (Nancy Allison Wolfe), who goes out looking for a lay, spots multicultural Rachel (Liza d'Agnostino) in a red mesh T-shirt, takes her for a drive, then parks and dances in the headlights, before inviting her new pick-up home for a chat. For all her spitfire posturing, old-school Loretta can't get it on unless she's in love, and that takes two weeks.

A few scenes later, the pair go picnicking in matching baseball caps (Rachel wearing hers backwards) and say the L word. Then they and we are subjected to a melting montage of lyrical body parts drenched in New Age sound — which means they had sex. That's 45 minutes down and 45 minutes to go.

The girls move in together and immediately have their domestic bliss threatened by



Nancy Allison Wolfe is Loretta



Liza d'Agnostino is Rachel

silliness with a smirk does not equal style. Failing to make a clear choice between sincerity and detachment, the film ends up feeling simply cheap the morning after.

A lot of *Bar Girls* was shot on location at Girl Bar, "an upscale neighborhood hotspot in West Hollywood," according to the press kit. Now, shooting a scene in a real bar doesn't guarantee that the writing, direction, or acting in the film will bear any resemblance to life as lived in a bar. *Bar Girls* does not hold the mirror up to nature, despite Lauran Hoffman's impression she based the script on her own experience. Nobody in this film could be mistaken for a real human being — which would be okay if the film managed to establish an alternative universe that were consciously created, consistent and compelling. Unfortunately, there's not enough talent or technique at work for an original vision to emerge.

By default, the action of this romantic farce ends up taking place somewhere in the collective unconscious of people living in the shadow of the legend of Hollywood/Studio City, for whom every room is a film set and every sentence a line of dialogue — people, in short, who don't have real lives to begin with, let alone the imagination necessary to translate their experience into film. Inhabiting this creative vacuum, the bar girls place their orders by say-

ing, "I want a drink" — the sort of thing a child imitating a movie might say.

Marita Giovanni does not seem to have been able to make up her mind whether she was directing *Midsummer Night's Dream* or *I'll Cry Tomorrow* or a same-sex episode of *Cheers*. So not only are the characters not grounded in reality, they lack a fictional frame, oscillating wildly from romantic comedy to melodrama, from harlequin romance to laugh track. It's as if the lesbian, having been so long invisible in Hollywood, had come to be considered a mythic animal, like the unicorn, and so could be made to frolic, fight or fuck in the most inane manner, without anyone involved questioning the logic of the so-called concept. Including, apparently, the lesbians in charge of the concept.

Galling as it is to have Hollywood hacks grind out ice-pick-wielding variations on the vampire lesbian theme, it's even more disheartening when dykes themselves, given the chance to set the record queer, produce incompetent drivel like *Bar Girls* — and then sell it to Orion! So it can't even die a quiet little death, moldering in a film can somewhere in some projection booth. Oh, no, it's got to play two weeks at the Castro. I want a drink. ▼

■ *Bar Girls* opens at the Castro Theatre March 31.

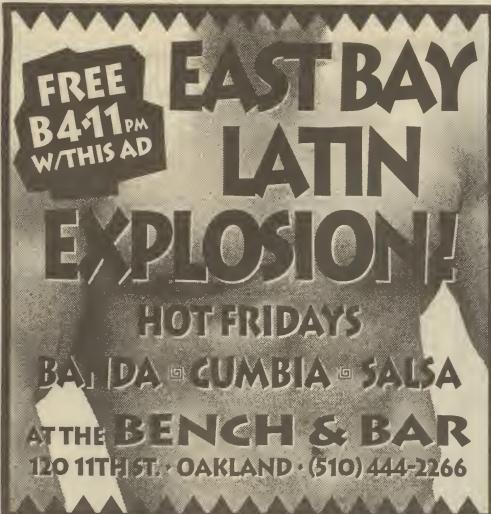
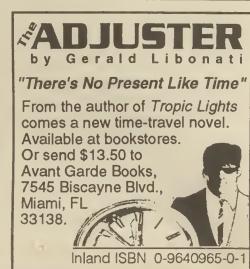
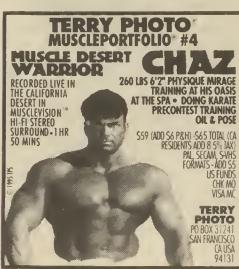


Photo: Shirley Atkins

Bar Girls: "Silliness with a smirk does not equal style."



Freeman and Smith Serve Up 'Basic Black'

For two weeks in April, Brian Freeman of Pomo Afro Homos and Terrence Smith, the host of *Late Night With Joan Jett Black*, will dish up *Basic Black*, a spectacle of severe satire, scintillating stories and fashion designed to critique the conservative upswing in Washington. *Basic Black* is directed by Tony Kelly, literary associate at Berkeley Repertory Theatre. His directorial credits include Suzi-Lori Parks' *The America Play*. Runs April 12-23 at Josie's Cabaret & Juice Joint, 3583 16th St. \$10. Call 861-7933 for more information. ▼

Queer Theory, Inside Out

Homos by Leo Bersani; \$22.95, Harvard Press

by Jim Coughenour

Homos is the most perverse book I've read this year. It's also the first book I've ever read by Leo Bersani, a professor at the University of California, Berkeley, and an eminent practitioner of the psychoanalytic approach to literature—which in itself is enough to warn me away. But who could resist a book called *Homos*?

It's better than I'd dared hope. Bersani proves himself one of the most interesting "queer theorists" now writing. Granted, this may not be much of a challenge, as anyone who's browsed the Queer Theory section at A Different Light Bookstore knows. Ever since Foucault argued that homosexuality was invented in the 19th century, one turgid tome after another has propounded the constructivist dogma: homosexuality is nothing but a classification contrived by an anxious patriarchy to keep the perverts in line.

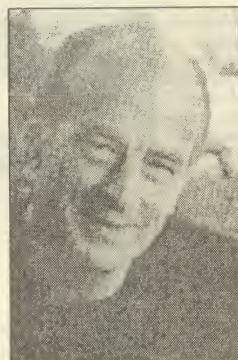
The paradox of course is that a homophobic culture—in creating the imaginary category "homosexual"—thereby established the means by which the individuals so classified (suddenly having a perversity in common) could contest the culture's right to rule their lives. This paradox, Bersani suggests, is one that neither we nor the homophobes have yet resolved.

Bersani agrees that queer theorists are wise to be suspicious of a lesbian or gay identity. "The attempted stabilizing of identity is inherently a disciplinary project." In plainer terms, "Once we agreed to be seen, we also agreed to being policed." On the other hand, to reject this supposedly spurious identity may destroy our ability to resist. "It is not possible to be gay-affirmative, or politically effective as gays, if gayness has no specificity." A conundrum, as it were.

The real problem with the constructivist position, according to Bersani, is not that it's wrong, but that its most persuasive arguments threaten to "de-gay" gay men and women. By stressing the cultural contingency of sexual identity, queer theorists erase *homosexual* identity and "melt into the culture they like to think of themselves as undermining." Regrettably, queer logic enacts "the principal aim of homophobia: the elimination of gays." So the ironic result of radical theory is to guarantee (what Bersani terms) "the gay absence."

Cows not so sacred after all?

This is bad news, but it gets worse. Bersani's measured tones belie his ruthlessness—all the sacred cows of queer culture are herded toward the slaughter. To the defenders of drag (especially the academic acolytes of *Paris Is Burning*) Bersani poses the embarrassing question: How subversive is parody? Not very, he concludes. "It is...extremely doubtful that resignification, or redeployment, or hyperbolic miming, will overthrow anything. These mimetic activities are too closely imbricated in the



Leo Bersani

norms they continue." The queens in *Paris Is Burning* only mock what they worship. Ditto for the boys of Queer Nation with their "campy" replications of given forms of the social." In political terms, parody is the sincerest form of flattery.

But Bersani's most damaging dissection regards the exalted claims of S/M. One masterful theorist defines S/M as "the powerful initiation into archetypal masculinity" which allows gay men to "reclaim their primal connection to the rawness and power of the Masculine, to give a patriarchal, heterosexist society a stinging slap in the face." To which Bersani wryly replies, "S/M is nonetheless profoundly conservative in that its imagination of pleasure is almost entirely defined by the dominant culture...it certainly doesn't challenge authority itself." (Someone better tell Missy before she slaps again.)

What S/M does reveal, however, is something more disturbing, and for Bersani more promising: "The shocking revelation that, for the sake of that stimulation, human beings may actually be willing to give up control over their environment." This revelation affords the clue to what Bersani's book is all about—the essentially sexual, blissful masochism (*jouissance*) he calls "homo-ness."

Utopian flights of fancy

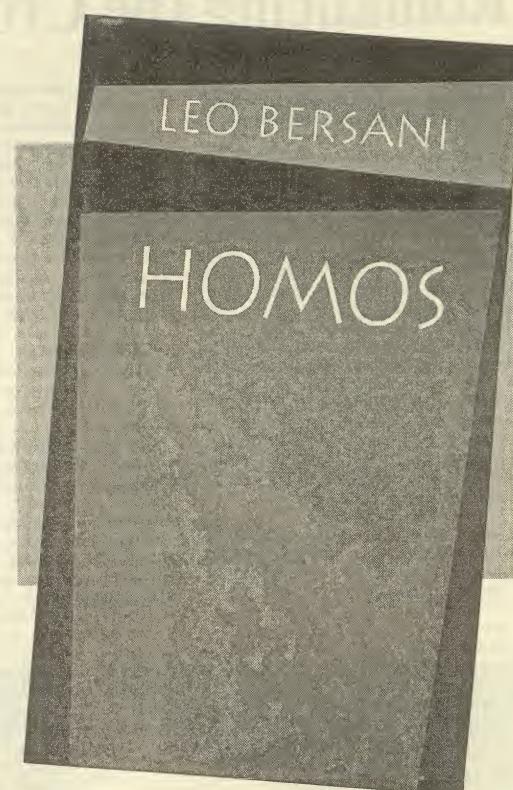
At this point it is helpful to turn back to an essay ("Is the Rectum a Grave?") Bersani contributed to a 1987 anthology on AIDS. In that essay, Bersani attacks the "the redemptive reinvention of sex," a prescriptive project that includes "a frequently hidden agreement about sexuality as being, in its essence, less disturbing, less socially abrasive, less violent, more respectful of 'personhood' than it has been in a male-dominated, phallocentric culture." In its place Bersani champions "the inestimable value of sex as...anticommunal, antiegalitarian, antinurturing, antiloving," sounding for all the world like Camille Paglia in her polemical preface to *Sexual Personae*.

But at the end of his essay, Bersani makes a move that Paglia could not countenance. He brutally rejects "the sacrosanct value of selfhood, a value that accounts for human beings' extraordinary willingness to kill in order to protect the seriousness of their statements. The self is a practical convenience; promoted to an ethical ideal, it is a

sanction for violence." This incredible remark leads inexorably to his final statement, which superbly sums up the polemic of *Homos*: "Male homosexuality advertises the risk of the sexual itself as the risk of self-dismissal, of losing sight of the self, and in so doing it proposes and dangerously represents *jouissance* as a mode of asceticism."

This may illuminate Bersani's otherwise opaque definition of "homo-ness" as "an anti-identitarian identity" or an "anticommunal mode of connectedness." Homo-ness is socially transgressive insofar as it "depends not on denying a gay identity, but rather on exploring a specific sexuality, psychic mobility, and a potentially radical politics." It redeems sex (and society) by refusing to redeem the self.

Yet even artful definitions cannot prevent his "gay outlaw" (as adumbrated by the scatological St. Genet) from sounding absurdly utopian. Bersani concludes *Homos* by insisting: "In a society where oppression is structural, constitutive of society itself, only what society throws off—its mistakes or its pariahs—can serve the future." This is desperate nonsense. What imaginary "future" are we invoking? *Jouissance* or not, homos cannot escape history so easily. ▼



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Romancing the Crone

A Passion for Life,
The Biography of Elizabeth Taylor
by Donald Spoto; HarperCollins, \$25

by Robert Julian

In his new celebrity bio, *A Passion for Life, The Biography of Elizabeth Taylor*, Donald Spoto pioneers an entirely new genre of non-fiction. His fawningly sycophantic approach to Taylor results in a biased piece of celebrity puffery that might best be described as "literary cunnilingus." The author is either a devout fan or a man who fears Taylor's well-known penchant for litigation. Tedium results.

No stranger to movie star bios, Spoto previously penned Monroe, Dietrich, and Olivier tomes with some success. His prose is generally competent and, even in the Taylor book, he possesses an ability to convey the essential personality of his subject. But from the opening pages, which gloss over the Taylor-Fortenberry nuptials, *A Passion for Life* never gets off the ground. The author's unreserved admiration for Taylor's celluloid image is but one of his barriers to credibility.

Spoto raves about Taylor's film performances, especially the early ones, without providing quotes from respected critics of the time to support his dubious allegations. He describes her performance in *Cleopatra* as "flawless" and offers the leaden *Raintree Country* as unassailable proof of her great talent. But the most bizarre allegation comes after discussion of her work in *The Comedians*, *Secret Ceremony*, and *Boom!* — all artistic disasters. Spoto opines that the state of film criticism is to blame for Taylor's notices because critics of that era were unable to "distinguish the role or project from the actress trapped within them." Spoto, apparently, would compliment a naked emperor on his new clothes.

No coping skills

Taylor is portrayed here as a whiskey-drinking, pill-popping Mother Theresa whom everyone loves in spite of the fact that she's obviously a manipulative emotional wreck. The seeds of Taylor's instability are sown early as

she is pushed by a stereotypical stage mother into a cliché Hollywood adolescence before the cameras. Deprived of a formal education and pampered by parents and publicists, Taylor arrives at adulthood with no coping skills. She makes disastrous marriage choices — at least seven of them — that barely disguise her need for a man who can fill two roles at once, father (so she can rebel against him) and husband (someone to make love to). This role is best filled by husband number five and six, Richard Burton.

In relating the depths of her alcoholic, co-dependent relationship with Burton, Spoto is at his best. He describes a classic case of two needy individuals who cling to the one relationship that might be devastating enough to cause them to turn their lives around. Ultimately, only Taylor was able to make that transition; Burton remained a sodden alcoholic until his premature death.

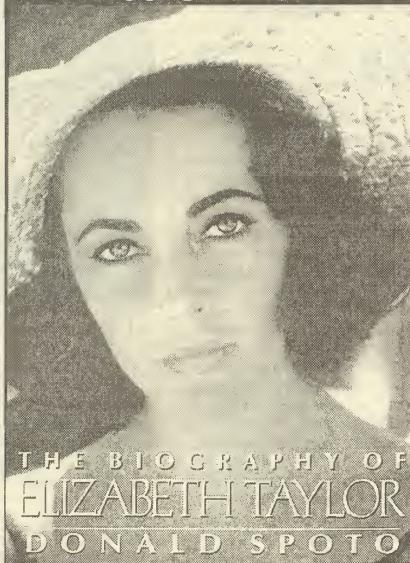
A little more reality, please

Spoto gives the last 12 years of Taylor's life a scant 21 pages and he offers no photos whatsoever of Taylor between 1979 and 1994. The photos he does provide come mainly from the publicity mills of *Movie Star News* and the American Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. There is only one Ron Galella shot of Taylor during her elephantine John Warner "just-one-more-chicken-leg, please" period.

Of the text itself, most of what Spoto provides the reader is recycled fanzine material borrowed from publications like *Look*, *People*, and *Good Housekeeping* — so much for investigative reporting. But there is at least one truly memorable story Spoto relates from 1982, when the drunken, drug-addicted Taylor leaves for an Xmas vacation to Egypt, Lebanon, and Israel — a trip she promotes as a 10-day peace mission. Self-appointed Ambassador Taylor plans to meet with Israeli and Arab heads of state to solve the problems of the Middle East. President Reagan's press secretary has to explain to the public that, "We do have our diplomats" and Taylor eventually aborts her ill-fated fiasco after five days of travel.

Spoto's work concludes before Taylor's recent hip-

A PASSION FOR LIFE



replacement surgery, but given all that has come before, it's still possible to imagine her once again swilling Jack Daniels and hanging out at McDonalds. Yet Taylor is a survivor. Kitty Kelly was right, Elizabeth Taylor is "the last star" — a complex human being who deserves a better analysis than Spoto's superficial biography provides. ▼

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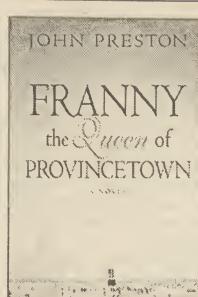


Filmmaker's Hall of Fame Screens Riggs' Last Flick

The annual Black Filmmakers' Hall of Fame gets under way March 31 and runs through April 8 at the Oakland Museum. As part of this year's panorama of films, programmers will screen Marlon Riggs' posthumously completed film *Black Is ... Black Ain't* (April 7, 7-9 p.m.) in the Oakland Museum's James Moore Theatre. This screening is part of a tribute to the late filmmaker that will include guest speakers and screenings of additional films by Riggs. For more information, call 1-510-465-0804. ▼

Writers Wanted

Arts Editor seeks writers for the *Bay Area Reporter's* arts and entertainment section. If you're interested in writing about people, arts and culture and have a proven track record as a writer, please send a cover letter and published clips (no more than three please) to: Arts Editor, Bay Area Reporter, 395 9th Street, San Francisco, CA 94103.



The Way We Were

Franny, the Queen of Provincetown
by John Preston;
St. Martin's Press,
\$15.95

by Jeffery Kennedy

St. Martin's Press recently reissued *Franny, the Queen of Provincetown*, a novel by John Preston originally published in 1983. Preston, a key figure in the development of gay literature as a genre, who edited and wrote nearly 30 gay-themed books, died of AIDS in 1994.

At the time of his death, the author was working on a sequel to *Franny* set in the '90s. Editors Michael Dennen and Michael Lowenthal have assembled the fragments into a story, printed here for the first time.

In the book's new epilogue, Preston calls *Franny* "the history of the gay community." Set in Provincetown, this collection of brief first-person tales spans the '50s to the '80s and centers around a drag queen matriarch named Franny, who is immensely likable, generous, wise, compassionate and unattractive.

In each section, she dishes out lessons in self-esteem, and every time she opens her mouth, a gob of two-bit psychology rolls off her tongue. The themes touched upon in this book should be familiar — perhaps too familiar — to gay men of the '90s: persecution by the police, developing a sense of gay identity, confronting internal homophobia, recovering from addiction and overcoming small towns full of small minds.

Character development and plot are given short shrift here because of the *Aesop's Fables* structure of the book. Several key figures come and go in the blink of an eye. Preston tries to imbue a few of them with extra meaning by having them speak in vernacular, but he isn't a good enough writer to pull this off.

Furthermore, the acceptance of drag in mainstream American popular culture — witness RuPaul and *The Adventures of Priscilla* — means that we're all familiar with the wise old queen stereotype. If *Franny* were deeper and better written, it might have withstood the test of time. Today, however, it reads more like a cliché nostalgia trip down memory lane than a history of the development of a subculture. ▼

Rated G

Not the Only One: Lesbian and Gay Fiction for Teens
edited by Tony Grima; Alyson,
\$7.95

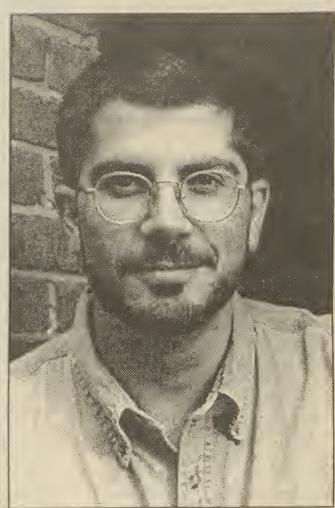
by Deborah Peifer

I remember a time, oh maybe a million years ago or thereabouts, when I was young and in love and certain that my feelings for Kathleen were unique in all the world. I realize, of course, that one solid definition of adolescence is "being of absolute certainty that one's feelings are unique in all the world," but I would suggest that the feelings of being gay multiply that sense of adolescent freakishness a hundred fold. I know that I felt more alone than I imagined possible until I visited, for the first time, a women's bookstore. Jane Addams was a wonderful store. Located on the fifth floor of an office building, it was impossible to find or visit casually. I remember walking past the building several times, and around the block more than once, working up the nerve to go in. And when I finally did, what an experience! Books about lesbians. Not a lot, of course, nothing like the abundance we have today, but I can still remember the exhilaration I felt when I realized that I wasn't the only one.

This trip down memory lane is courtesy of an exceptional new collection of short fiction for teenagers, *Not The Only One*, a book that would have made a huge difference in my life had it been around when I was struggling with horrendous confusion about love and lust and identity.

Most interesting, perhaps, is that although every story in this anthology has one or more gay or lesbian characters, the central characters are not always gay or lesbian. In JoAnn Guernsey's lovely "Pas De Deux," for example, a young straight dancer finds true love thanks to the timely intervention of a gay friend. The result is a picture of the world that is very much like the world we all live in — one in which gays and lesbians exist, but in which gayness, per se, is not always the focal point.

But there are coming out stories, too, painful sketches of young love, and an eerie tale of homophobia and its horrifying consequences ("The Visitation" by Gysbert Menninga). Finally, sweetly, there is Brian Sloan's "New York in June," an engaging story of love and self discovery that made me laugh and brought a wistful tear to my eye. If there is a teenager in your circle, gay or straight, do the young adult a great service, and buy her or him a copy of *Not The Only One*. And don't forget to read it yourself. ▼



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Louganis

Continued from cover

been. "Working on my book did a lot to free me," he said during a recent interview, referring to his recently released *Breaking the Surface* (Random House, \$23). "Coming out at the Gay Games was the beginning. Now I feel relieved. I don't have to remember who I told what and when."

By all appearances, Louganis has, for years, led a charmed life. At 16 he was already a world-class diver, taking the silver medal at the 1976 Olympics. With his muscular body, handsome looks, self-effacing manner, and charming smile, he was the perfect image of the All-American boy. But, in reality he was a troubled young man plagued with a negative self-image and difficulty in personal relationships. "I felt I deserved what I got," he said, "because I didn't think I was worthwhile to anyone, including myself. Diving was my consolation. If I had a good practice, the day was good. If I had a bad practice, the day was a disaster."

By his 21st birthday, Louganis had attempted suicide three times. "I know now that I suffered from clinical depression," Louganis said, admitting that as recently as last year he was taking anti-depressant medication.

In 1994, Louganis began seeing a therapist to sort out his negative feelings about himself. "I had been in therapy once before," he says, "but it didn't help much because I wanted to please my therapist and only said things I thought he wanted to hear, instead of what I really felt."

Coincidentally, it was in January 1994 that Louganis started working on his autobiography with Eric Marcus. "This is the most excruciating thing I've ever done," said Marcus. "At the beginning, I thought this book would be sort of joyous, a gay man coming out who has finally resolved those issues and gone on to live this happy life. At our first interview I learned he was HIV positive. It was like someone hit me in the head with a baseball bat. Suddenly, this was not the book I thought it was going to be. It was very, very bittersweet."

Mother knows best

Louganis came out to his mother during a painful breakup with a lover in 1982. "My mother knew I was gay for a long time, but we had never talked about it. When I told her, she said, 'That's all right, honey.' That's the way she is. Once, when I was a boy, I came in second in a diving competition I had expected to win. I was sure I had disappointed my mother. I started to cry and she said, 'It's all right.' It was my mother who showed me what unconditional love is.

"Right now, I feel good about myself because I'm not hiding anymore," he said. "And writing the book with Eric Marcus was a catharsis. For the first time in my life I can watch a film of myself diving and say, 'Beautiful dive.' Then I kind of look around the room and think, 'Did I say that?'"

In 1988, his former live-in lover became ill and was diagnosed with AIDS. It was at that time that Louganis learned he was HIV positive. He was training for the 1988 Olympics, but

BREAKING THE SURFACE



GREG LOUGANIS
with Eric Marcus

did not reveal the information to officials for fear of being barred from the competition. Ron and Mary Jane O'Brien, who served as Louganis' surrogate parents since O'Brien became his diving coach in 1978, knew about Louganis' sexual orientation long before the 1988 Olympics.

Asked if there is a special

person in his life now, a boyish grin spreads across his face. "I wish," he laughed. "One thing that's really hard is that people are afraid to have a relationship with you once they know you're infected."

The American public long ago took Greg Louganis into its heart. In the face of adversity,

he's not wanted for support. A few days after his newsbreaking 20/20 interview with Barbara Walters, he appeared on the Oprah Show, where he received a lengthy standing ovation from the audience. "It gave me chills," Louganis said. "I thought maybe they didn't know about my book or the Walters interview. But afterwards I could see they did. It was very touching."

Louganis' love affair with the American public continues. While in Washington, D.C. recently he toured the White House and met with President Clinton, who interrupted an Oval Office meeting to spend time with him. Already a best-seller, his book is in its seventh printing. Nearing the end of a six-week, 20-city tour that started in New York and concludes in San Diego, Louganis has been greeted by huge crowds in each city he's visited. In Atlanta, 3000 people waited in line for hours to get a glimpse of their hero and get his autograph. In each city, Louganis smiles for everyone, poses patiently for photos, shakes hands and exchanges hugs and kisses with admirers. Well-wishers are always on hand with gifts and flowers.

Except for a splash of gray in his close-cropped hair, Louganis shows no sign of aging, and he certainly looks fit. He's not interested in revealing his exact T-cell count, but he says it's somewhere "under 200." Two of his former lovers have died of AIDS related complications, but when asked if he feels burdened by this knowledge, he replies cheerily, "I don't feel it's a burden. It's the greatest challenge I've ever had to face." ▼

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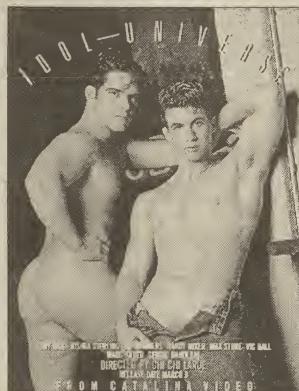
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The following is an excerpt from Greg Louganis' *Breaking the Surface*.

When Tom came down with shingles in the summer of 1987, I convinced myself that it had nothing to do with AIDS, despite the fact that shingles is often the first sign that someone is HIV-positive.

We had just come back from a European tour when Tom got shingles. He met me in Italy for part of the trip and then headed back to California. I returned to Florida to continue with my training. When we parted, Tom was fine, but shortly after he got home, he started complaining about itching and burning. He was in excruciating pain before he went to the doctor who diagnosed it. Plenty of people who get shingles don't have AIDS, and I took comfort from the fact that a straight guy about Tom's age who worked in my attorney's office had shingles. I figured that if he could get it from stress, so could Tom.

It was too frightening in 1987 for me to think that Tom could have AIDS. First of all, despite all my problems with him, I still loved him very much, and the thought of losing him was terrifying. If Tom was sick, then I might be sick - we'd been having unsafe sex for years. He could have infected me or I could have infected him, even though I apparently wasn't showing any symptoms and didn't yet know I was positive. It was the twin terror of facing the death of the person you love most and the possibility of your own death at the same time. The whole thing was so overwhelming that I couldn't let myself think about it. Tom's shingles was stress. That had to be it. ▼

Vaguely**Continued from cover**

The Stepford Wives is the Sick and Twisted Players' 23rd show since the group was formed in 1991. Previous Sick and Twisted efforts have included *Carrie*, *Burnt Offerings*, *Halloween I*, *Halloween II*, *The Omen*, *The Amityville Horror*, and *The Poseidon Adventure*, shows whose central *raison d'être* is that they were derived from '70s thrillers of questionable taste and were staged specifically for their least wholesome aspects.

"In a way I feel like what I'm doing is appropriating what is tacky in these things and allowing people to laugh at them. Maybe it's a way of laughing at ourselves," Vaguely observed in a recent interview at a cafe near his Mission District apartment. "Or something like that," he said in characteristically vague fashion.

Vaguely is less interested in theorizing about his art than making it. And he certainly is prolific. Twenty three plays in four years is an astonishing number of shows for a director, yet, despite all the activity in his life, the 27-year-old Vaguely seems to take it all in stride. Which is surprising considering that already this year Vaguely and company have extended their production of *A Partridge Family Friday the 13th*, and even while *The Stepford Wives* is in rehearsals, Vaguely is planning two other productions to be mounted later this year. And planning does not mean simply giving instructions and orders to underlings. Vaguely does everything. "I write the script, design the sets, produce it and make all the publicity. Most of the time I do the lights and sound, unless I'm in the show. Sometimes I'll even do both." This, clearly, is a labor of love.

Inspired by Vegas and 'Carrie'

Although it doesn't always sound like Vaguely knows why he's spending his life in theatre, he thinks it probably has something to do with exorcising demons from his past. Vaguely was born into a typically dysfunctional Midwest family ("I come from total trailer park trash"), but at a very young age moved to Las Vegas with his mother. No doubt casino-encrusted Vegas played a part in igniting the incipient theatre director in Vaguely, but the rest of the equation belonged to growing up in a place that was less than appealing to a sensitive, budding artist. "Las Vegas was no place to raise a kid, that's all I can say," Vaguely muttered disdainfully. "There's nothing to do there except watch people gamble. The tackiness of Las Vegas ruined me and probably has a lot to do with what I'm doing now."

The emptiness of it all resulted in Vaguely becoming a "stoner kid" who escaped from reality into TV and movie characters. "Eve Plumb in *Dawn: Portrait of a Teenage Runaway* was my idol because she did her own thing," Vaguely said, confessing that he never went to school and hated authority. "I mean, I was Carrie White there," he said, referring to the psychic wallflower at the center of Brian DePalma's thriller *Carrie*, which later served as inspiration for the Sick and Twisted's first big hit. "I identified with Carrie because she was this outcast

who got revenge on people who bothered her. I didn't get revenge on people. I just dropped out."

After being shuffled between divorced parents and brothers and sisters, Vaguely, at age 21, set out on his own. Having already amassed some radio airplay in an Arizona punk band called the Roto-Rooters, he headed for Seattle to start a grunge band in 1988. "Music was on the horizon for me," he said wistfully. He was only passing through San Francisco, but fate intervened. "I met my boyfriend during my first two weeks here, and we've been together ever since."

Addicted to Frisco, Partridge Family

Vaguely quickly became involved in San Francisco's thriving alternative music and performance scene. "I was in a band called the Vaguelys (hence his last name) and the concept was that we were graveyard ghouls who ate the Partridge Family by mistake because their bus broke down at the gates of the cemetery."

With his feet firmly planted



Photo: Tyler

The real Tony Vaguely



Photo: Marc Geller

Tony as Carrie White

in the City's art scene, it was only a matter of time before Vaguely's skewed sensibility encountered a small band of Klubstitute regulars, who, in ensemble, created a classic version of that classic disaster movie, *The Poseidon Adventure*.

"It was very performance art," Vaguely recalled. "Gregory Taylor was Gene Hackman. A lot of people didn't know what

to do, so he was standing there telling them. We had a Christmas tree and a couple of chairs, and that's about it. And somebody was projecting *The Poseidon Adventure* viewmaster reels on a wall with a projector while he was reading the story from the little viewmaster booklet we were acting out. It was really funny."

Not long after that, Vaguely

took the helm, and the ensuing productions came so fast and furious that for him they kind of "all run together." By October 1992, The Sick and Twisted Players were their own entity, producing a three-performance run of *Halloween I* and *Halloween II*. Now, of course, the Sick and Twisteds are San Francisco legends.

Great eye for casting

Vaguely's creative process is a combination of writer and director. "When I'm thinking of putting a show together I'll look at the original actors and visualize them on the screen and think, Who do I know who looks like that? Or who could easily put on some make-up and hair and do a caricature of that?" A born star maker, Vaguely has proved time and again that his instincts for creating characters from local color are right on the money.

In fact, the results are uncanny. Leigh Crow (aka Elvis Herself) superbly played the Ernest Borgnine role in *The Poseidon Adventure*, and Kathy Queer's Mary Poppins in *The*

Continued on page 38

The Dungeon



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Lennox Lite

by Kelly Lemieux

Medusa
Annie Lennox
Arista Records

Annie Lennox dives into a streamlined version of her Eurythmics-era blues electro-pop on her new cover disc *Medusa*, which tackles songs written and performed by everybody from Neil Young and The Clash to The Pretenders and Bob Marley. Lennox and producer Stephen Lipson (Grace Jones, PSB) have assembled the same shimmering keyboards, rhythm beds and vocals from 1992's *Diva* to craft a highly personal yet radio-friendly record.

Lipson handles the programming and bass and Annie tackles keyboards and flute, the instruments she studied at the Royal College of Music in London. The vocals on *Medusa* are the best since the Eurythmics' classic concept album, *Savage*. Lennox always was her own

best back-up singer and her arrangements and trademark screams are merged seamlessly into the mix by Lipson's production. The first single, *No More 'I Love You's*, wastes no time taking the listener straight to Pop heaven, with Annie floating her way through tremolo warbles and whispering like PJ Harvey between refrains.

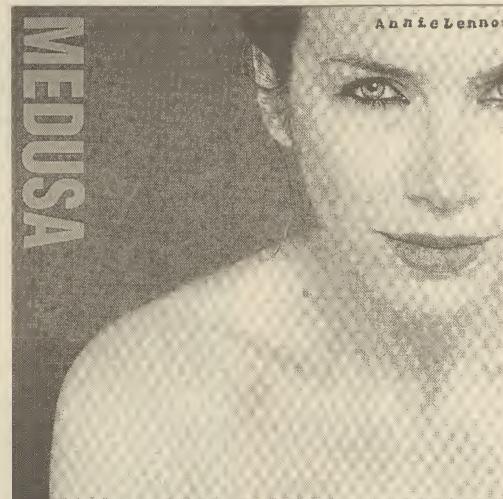
Lennox moves slowly into her cover of the Pretenders' *Thin Line Between Love And Hate* (itself a cover of the Persuaders) and then lets all hell break loose with a growling vocal attack as the song's protagonist gives her abusive lover a taste of his own medicine. Annie belts out the lyrics like a vengeful Medea, reminding you that even her mellow, post-Eurythmics recordings still pack the angry madwoman punch that fueled her '80s hit singles.

Eurythmics-era songs like *I Need A Man and Who's That Girl* barely held Lennox's Punk Diva fury in check as she offered herself up as then-UK

Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's worst nightmare. Those bitter tones of hate and disappointment resurface conspicuously on *Medusa*'s grim cover sleeve, which shows a naked Lennox staring out defiantly against a gray backdrop, the minimalist make-up on her face a stark contrast to *Diva*'s gaudy Las Vegas glamour.

But today's Lennox is at her best when blending manic angst and ennui with the middle-aged introspection and joy that appeared on her first solo release. *Medusa*'s upbeat tracks, like the murmuring *Downtown Lights* and her downright perky reggae take on The Clash's *Train In Vain*, could even cheer up perennial mopers like Morrissey.

Multiplatinum success and domestic bliss appear to have calmed neurotic Annie Lennox down. She ends *Medusa* with a sentimental cover of Paul Simon's *Something So Right* that would have had me reaching



ing for a barf bag if anyone else had been singing. But like all great artists, Lennox pulls the

sentiment off and brings the song's message of love and understanding home. ▼

Glam Sounds from the Era of Melmac

by Otter Outrage

Spotlight on Great Ladies/Gentlemen of Song
Capitol Records

Itter recently found himself at a truly garish gathering in the avenues, the low point of which was a cheap drag queen who tried to sing Kay Starr's big '50s hit "Wheel of

Fortune" to a roomful of drunkish queens. It was a real mess only made worse by Otter's having mindlessly consumed seven martinis and a huge Drambuie-Minsk.

To recover, Otter fled to the nearest record store to find a copy of the real thing. Though he didn't succeed in finding any Kay Starr (truly vintage stuff), he did stumble across the next best thing, a new series of recordings from Capitol Records highlighting great singers from the '50s, that notorious decade of accidental glamour, big cars, and Melmac.

Something unimaginatively titled, *Spotlight On Great Ladies/Gentlemen of Song* tours (in six CDs) high points in the careers of singing legends Bobby Darin, Dinah Shore, Bob Manning, Mel Torme, Betty Hutton and the sensational Keely Smith. Capitol Records, whose musical vaults are apparently loaded with previously unreleased material, promises future additions to this already noteworthy collection.

This is great stuff. Part of the attraction here, at least for lurid Otter, is knowing that this music was produced during one of the most hideous decades in modern American history, adding credence to the old adage that originality blossoms where specters haunt. Roy Cohn, Joe McCarthy, the bomb, "better living through chemistry," Dick



Keely Smith

and Pat Nixon — this was a really sick era, sick because people were bloated with delusion. And the music of the time spoke to these delusions. The airwaves were simply festooned day and night with sweet sentimental tunes about the good life, striking it rich, finding eternal happiness in the arms of the opposite sex. The big cultural meltdown was only a decade away, but nobody could see the writing on the wall if they were immersed in these snazzy sounds.

If you've ever wondered what peculiar forces were responsible for the Edsel, Ray Milland's career, *Mr. Ed*, or orange and green striped golf

carts with fringe canopies, then pour yourself a high ball, sit back, relax, and lend an ear to Bobby Darin as he croons Irving Berlin's "Blue Skies" and the vocal standard "Fly Me to the Moon." (You haven't lived until you've heard that heavenly chorus backing Bobby up on "You'll Never Know.") Or listen to Mel Torme (pre-jowls and chins) toss off "Blue Moon" and "Skylark" with glib jocularity. You'll be lulled into an uneasy sense of fantasy by the smooth voices, the rich instrumentals, and the frighteningly inane lyrics. Were people ever really this carefree?

The best discs in this series, however, are devoted to Dinah Shore and the fabulous Keely Smith. This stuff is primal. It speaks to the drag queen in everybody. Dinah is simply delicious on the Arlen and Mercer tune "Blues In the Night," and the classic "My Funny Valentine" is rendered in a memorably coquettish fashion.

But even Dinah can't compare with Las Vegas sensation Keely Smith. What a voice. Just listen to the way it opens up on "Sweet and Lovely," a big juicy number suffused with sexual ecstasy, or the way she wraps herself around the sultry melancholy of "You Go To My Head." Keely was one of the first singers to be nominated for a

Continued on page 46

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**STRAIGHT
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Vaguely

Continued from page 37

Omen was frighteningly similar to the real thing. And Vaguely has no doubt that *The Stepford Wives* will also produce some memorable acting. Longtime *Sick* and *Twisted* players Johnny Kat Harris, Don Baird, Deena Davenport, and Stefan Grygelko will essay the principal roles, and among the supporting roles, Vaguely is positively ecstatic over his latest find, Kyle Overstreet: "It's spooky how much she looks like Katherine Ross when she's all

made up."

With this latest effort, Vaguely feels like he's moving into "a higher level" venue. Not only will *The Stepford Wives* be co-produced by The New Conservatory Theatre, but the Players will be working in a larger space and doing three shows per week instead of two. "But best of all," beams Vaguely, "our posters will be in color."

Vaguely's future projects include a new production of *The Towering Inferno* (late June) and a new band. He's hawking a collection of science fiction short stories and has six ideas

for a Halloween show. So busy he barely has time to turn around, Vaguely is the first to admit that he'll go wherever the wind blows him. We hope wherever that is it's not away from San Francisco. "This is working out so well," he says, "I've got such a big following that if I stop, it will be like throwing away a good thing." And we certainly don't want that. ▼

The Stepford Wives runs March 30 through April 29 at the New Conservatory Theatre, 25 Van Ness Avenue. Call 861-4914 for tickets.

SF Track Nationally Ranked

by Darryl Downard

San Francisco Track & Field Club members made a significant showing in the recently released 1994 USA Masters Track & Field National Ranking Book. Marks earned at USA Track & Field meets held in 1994 were compiled by National Masters News, publisher of the book. The rankings are in age groups 30 and above (the "Masters" ages) and show the top 100 athletes in each group by event.

"We actually should be listed more than we are," said SFT & FC sprinter Rick Thoman. "Unfortunately, some meets only submitted marks for the top three places, while other meets failed to supply complete or accurate results, such as the Gay Games in New York. But this is still an outstanding achievement for our team and is a clear indication that we can compete against the best, gay or straight."

The SF Track & Field Club has previously been ranked in the top ten in the men's 4x100 and 4x400 relays, and Club member Nancy Frost has consistently been ranked in the women's top 20 in several events for a number of years. However, this was the first time so many athletes from the SFT&FC have gained national ranking.

Carmen Morrison garnered

the highest ranking by a SFT&FC member, coming in as the number two woman in the 35-39 age group of the women's 100-meter high hurdles. Winner of eight gold medals at the New York Gay Games, Morrison was also ranked in the 100 meters (4th), 200 meters (8th) and 400 meters (6th).

Among the men, Brian Mutert was ranked 9th in the triple jump (and 44th in the 400 meters), while Lafe Fowler was 11th in the 400 meter, 21st in the 200 meter, and 28th in the 100 meter, as well as being a member of the 10th ranked men's 4x100 meter relay (with teammates Rob Lenderink, Ken Wun and Gary Schlempin). Both men competed in the highly competitive 35-39 age group.

Other SFT&FC women who ranked as tops in the Nation included Valerie Scott (8th, 100m; 11th, 200m; 12th, 400m), Michele Lewis (9th, 100m; 12th, 200m; 16th, 400m), Barbara Racine (13th in both the shot put and discus) and Norma Lopez (21st in the 400 meter). Nancy Frost, who turned 40 in June, competed in two age groups during the season and was ranked in both: in the 35-39 age group (15th, 400m; 17th, 800m) and in the 40-44 age group (12th, 400m; 13th, 800m; 18th, 200m; 20th, 1500 meters).

In addition to Mutert and Fowler, other SFT&FC men who scored national ranking

included Chuck Martin (20th in triple jump), Rob Lenderink (25th, 800m; 39th, 1500m; 33rd, 400m; 77th, 200m), Ken Patterson (29th, triple jump; 39th, long jump; 69th, 100m; 71st, 200m), Ken Wun (30th, 400m; 58th, 200m; 57th, 100m), Rick Thoman (49th, 400m; 80th, 200m; 92nd, 100m), Daniel Rainey (66th, 200m; 88th, 100m); Carlos Ferreira (86th, 100m; 91st, 200m), Bruce Nickerson (68th in 800m), Frank Demby (73rd in 400m) and Mike Moorefield (93rd in 400m).

In addition to the men's 4x100 relay team, the men's 40-49 age group 4x400m team of Demby, Ferreira, Moorefield and Bob Dulaney were ranked 35th in the nation.

"We've really come a long way in terms of our ability to be among the best in the nation," stated SFT&FC co-coach Frank Demby. "We haven't competed at the National Championships for several years, but we continue to improve, which is both a validation of our training program and good indication of the dedication of our team members."

"Our showing at the Gay Games in New York (over 100 medals for the team) proved that we have one of the best teams in gay athletics. But these national rankings show that we can compete on any level, gay or straight, local, regional or national. It is an indication that

by competing in the U.S. Track & Field National Masters Indoor Championships in Reno, Nevada and winning the 60 meter hurdles.

Snowden, who won multiple gold medals at last year's Gay Games in New York, overcame a knee injury that had plagued him throughout the winter and looked as though it would keep him out of the National Indoor Championships.

"There were a couple of other competitors in the hurdles who I knew were going to be tough to beat," Snowden related. "Luckily one was thrown out for a false start and the other never quite caught up with me after I got a good start."

Also competing at the meet was Valerie Scott, who placed fourth in both the 60-and 200-meters. Scott said she was pleased with her times and place, considering it was the first time she had ever competed indoors and she had limited training leading up to the meet due to all the winter rain. Scott has now set her sights on the National Outdoor Championships in Michigan in July.

The San Francisco Track & Field Club is currently conducting practice sessions every Tuesday and Thursday night at 6 p.m., and Sunday morning at 10 a.m. All workouts are at Kezar Stadium, Stanyan and Frederick Streets, San Francisco. For more information, call (415) 550-7966. ▶



Valerie Scott

athletic achievement is possible for anyone who has the desire to train and push the limits of personal performance, regardless of their sexual orientation."

And it isn't just athletes from the San Francisco squad who are breaking down the stereotypes of "gay athletes" as under-achievers. National rankings were also scored by team members from Los Angeles, Seattle, Washington DC, Frontrunners New York and Frontrunners Philadelphia.

A member of the SF Track & Field Club who may wind up on next year's national ranking is Reggie Snowden. He recently turned 30 and celebrated his new status as a Masters runner

SWEET LIPS

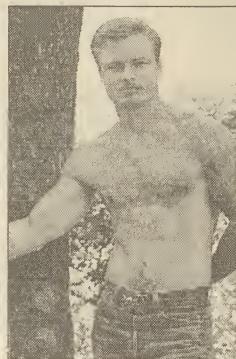
Remembrance of Things Past

Did you know that April 1 marks the 24th anniversary of this paper, not to mention this column? And, *mais oui*, I was one of the *B.A.R.*'s first writers, even before leather maven Mr. Marcus. April 1 is also the 21st anniversary of Linda's Phone Booth out on S. Van Ness. There will be lots of surprises in store all day long for loyal 'boothers. Remember everyone, it's April Fool's Day, so let's do it up right.

Of course, April 2 is another important day — our beloved publisher's birthday! Many happy returns of the day to you, Bob. And if I was still doing it, we would be having the 25th hanging of Sweet Lips. Many have expressed their desire to bring back this tradition ASAP. Golly! How time *does* fly when you're having fun (and a lot of martinis).

Separated at birth dept.: Everyone's commenting on how much legal eagle F. Lee Bailey and our own potent politico Wayne Friday look and sound alike. Question: Have you ever seen them together in the same smoke-filled room?

So many people have asked who the hunk in the picture was in my last column, that I have decided to bare all. Well, almost. His name is Mark Anderson, and he works as a bartender at J.O.Q.'s Tavern in Portland. If you're ever up there,



Mark Anderson

show this photo and say, "Sweet Lips sent me!"

Craig Roady will be throwing Earth Mother's 25th anniversary party on Saturday, April 22, from noon until 4 p.m., at Kimo's. The bash will be a benefit for the Godfather Service Fund, with food, prizes and surprises. Circle this date in red on your calendar. Details to follow.

Today, Thursday, March 23, is the birthday of Dolly Dale, the emperor of Alcatraz ('cuz she's spent most of her life behind bars), at the Polk Rendezvous from noon until 3 p.m. Do drop by and help Dolly

Continued on page 46

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PARTING GLANCES

Blue Jeep Wrangler - Fri, 3/3, 280, north bound, Palo Alto. You: blue Wrangler. Me: red Wrangler. We paced for several miles, let's meet and talk. Jim. EXT 2204.

Orsi's Sebastopol 2/23 - You were the blond at corner table. I was with gray beard at next table. We spoke as you left. Let's speak again. EXT 2200.

David at Leathernecks - Eric is looking. Naked? In a cage? Yeah! Give me a call and I'm yours. EXT 2337.

Painter - Met on 38 Geary from Van Ness to Divisadero 6:30 on 2/25, spoke briefly. You: blond, glasses, with paint on hands. Me: brown hair, black leather jacket. Interested in talking more. Please call. EXT 2202.

Randy - Our "appointments" overlapped last Sunday. You were coming from the shower & I was sitting naked on the bed. You grabbed my dick. I'd like to grab yours. Call. EXT 2300.

Aids Dance-A-Thon - Cute Asian photographer, brown shirt, on stage taking pictures at 11:30, in pit during Village People. Me: tall WM, dancing near front, plaid vest. Let's do coffee. EXT 2302.

Muni Train 3/15/95 - I got on a Castro around 1:10pm, headed downtown. Me: tall, short black hair, goatee & mustache, wearing a grey suit and carrying a black briefcase. You: Periwinkle shirt, and reading "MEN on MEN#3." we smiled at each other but then someone sat next to you (dam!) You got off at Civic Center. I was rights behind you...where'd you go? Let's talk. EXT 2339.

The Hottest Guy In Town - Even the hottest guy in town is not worth you risking your health over. Play safe! Protect yourself & those you play with. Always wear a condom when having anal sex, & don't exchange bodily fluids. If you're HIV+, don't panic, get early treatment, talk to someone that can help, & still play safe. EXT SAFE.

Admirer From San Diego - We met in Berkeley 3/6. You: bln, gdkng, formerly from Honolulu. I was visiting from San Diego. Scene created by jealous ex-boyfriend thwarted our efforts to finish getting acquainted. Rendezvous plans failed. Let's try again. EXT 2203.

Cafe 3/10, Orphan Andy's Early Morn - You: long hair, glasses, blue plaid shirt, jeans, backpack. After dancing, caught you a second time at U.A. As I waited outside with friends for a table. Didn't want to interrupt your date?? Me: dark hair, vested, jacket. Will fate allow us to speak?? EXT 2301

11 March Sat. Moscone Center - Rich you are tall, handsome, masculine, dark hair (my girlfriend said you weren't) Me: black, tall, handsome, name is Wayne. EXT 2349.

Walnut Creek Supercuts - Wed, 3/1. You: tall, blonde, white jeans, plaid shirt, baseball cap, very cute. Me: straw/blond, 6'. We each looked twice. Would like to see more of you. Yum! EXT 2208.

St. Patrick's Day GG Park - You: Cute runner w/ bushy mustache. Me: Shy walker in red & black. We said "hi" pls call. EXT 2437.

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP
M-M

Let's Get Together - GWM, hairy body, 35, 195#, looking for a fun outgoing top. If this is you give me a call. EXT 2206.

Hot, Muscular, 37, GWM Seeks - A smooth, hairless, Asian to date, poss. LTR. Not into bars. Please be stable, honest, sincere, no games or flakes. EXT 2205.

Single in Vallejo - GWM, HIV+, 5'8", 140#, bl eyes, attr, w/ model build, seeks a good friend who is caring, intellectual & considerate of others, cuddles and also seeking a good honest 30 to 40ish + healthy, wealthy & wise friendship. EXT 2211.

GWM, 35, HIV+, and Fit - Retired from show business and relocated from NYC. Passionate, opinionated, articulate, adventurous, eclectic and very good looking. Seeking friendship and courtship. EXT 2212.

A Cuddly-Feely Kinda Guy - Me: HIV+, smoker, drinker, GWM, 6'4", 240#, bl/bl, 40yo, sensitive, caring together. You: GWM, HIV- 21-35, smoker, drinker, enjoys, touching, cuddling, gentle sex. Let's have a good time, build friendship, and what may come our way. EXT 2207.

You're a Lean, Hairy Bottom - Clean, honest, dependable, smart, NS, 35-55, dark-haired, in shape. Your whole body, especially your tits, can take long, intense workouts form a gdkng, youthful 50's, very sexy, well-built top. No brutality or raunch. Oral sex or safe JO. LTR possible. EXT 2209.

GWM Late 30's, 6', 185" - Attractive (I resemble number one on Star trek). Looking for someone into working out, theatre, metaphysics. 28-40, NS. EXT 2209.

The Hottest Guy In Town - Even the hottest guy in town is not worth you risking your health over. Play safe! Protect yourself & those you play with. Always wear a condom when having anal sex, & don't exchange bodily fluids. If you're HIV+, don't panic, get early treatment, talk to someone that can help, & still play safe. EXT SAFE.

You Have Promiscuity Burnout - You're honest, clean, reliable, NS, 35+, dark-haired, hairy, lean, fit. Need one good man to sexually heal you. Restore your self-esteem need a 5'10", manly, dynamic, well-built, sexy, fifties, fair-haired, sensitive, handsome, dominant dad. Come to papa. EXT 2250.

Donahue Type - GWM seeks a younger GM for dreams come true. I am trim and 5'8", 140#, blue eyes, full white hair, distinguished in looks, attitude and desires. Your call, photo, letter gets mine right back. Race not important, heart, soul are it. HIV-a must, working, caring, love life, and God. EXT 2233.

HIV+, Latino 24 - Would like to meet other positive guys, Latin & Caucasians 25-38 for friendship maybe more. Me: 5'7", 175#, olive complexion, clean cut, healthy, college student, mostly a top. You: NS, outgoing, honest, have own car or able to drive a stick, nice teeth. EXT 2234.

SEEKING FRIENDSHIP

Sonoma County, GWM, 40 - Having trouble meeting men under 22 (roughly). You're slim, intelligent, together, and local. Seeking older brother, cuddly, humorous, 5'10", 180#, bl/bl, 220# of non-attitude. EXT 2305.

Finally Someone You Can Love! - GAM, 25, 5'4", HIV-, clean shaven, medium-length hair, east bay, C/C/Alameda area seeks stable, committed, ambitious, NS, ND, politically liberal individual like me, interested in creating a nurturing monogamous relationship. Enjoy challenging idea-bases conversation, but not nit-picking, walks, dinners, movies. Atheist a+. Please be 20-29. EXT 2235.

Sexy GWM - In need of top BM, in shape, sincere. Me: 6'2", 34, HIV+, masc, gdkng. Wants to share everything w/ Mr. Right. EXT 2237.

African American Prince

Wanted - For royal romance with tall, tanned snow white. I'm a 6'4", 33yo, in-shape, masculine, successful and loving European. UB a very attractive, tall, smart, romantic and always horny, dark complex prot, kinky yet cuddle. EXT 2213.

Heart Break Valentine - I wish to be entwined let this be true. You: Eastern Indian or Pilipino. Me: bl/bl, 26yo, 6'4". EXT 2338.

Prince Albert or Water Sports?

- Seeks top Ita/White clean-cut, healthy, HIV+, pig, 24-32yo, into outdoors, not bar scene. Me: LM 23, 5'5", eco-student, shaved-head w/ piercings. A total pig ready to service you. Well hung tatts a +. EXT 2210.

Seeking Gentleman - Former model, 25, attractive, intelligent, sexy. Ready to settle down with older gentleman. I cook, handle appointments, & make love like a champion. Please call soon! EXT 2232.

HIV+, Latino 24 - Would like to meet other positive guys, Latin & Caucasians 25-38 for friendship maybe more. Me: 5'7", 175#, olive complexion, clean cut, healthy, college student, mostly a top. You: NS, outgoing, honest, have own car or able to drive a stick, nice teeth. EXT 2234.

SEEKING FRIENDSHIP

Make my Heart Throb - Seeking Love. Me: GWM, 24, 6'1", bl/bl, 170#, serious intelligent, cute, inexperienced, athletic (tennis), nice, a bit cocky, stern, honest, into philosophy, not into bars. You: Under 30, HIV+, cute, honest, any race. Preferably tall, smooth, slim, boyish, and smart. LTR, NS, ND. EXT 2306.

I Have a Bear Magazine Look

GWM, 40, hairy, husky, balding, mustache, attractive, boyish looks for possible relationship. I enjoy bicycling, nature, Sci-Fi, Films, cuddling & sex versatile sex. EXT 2308.

Phi Beta Kappa &

- Attractive, amusing, solvent, real estate broker without car has time on hands, could have you on mind if you're BART accessible! EXT 2309.

HIV+, Top Wanted

- Needs dark hair, brown eyes, mustache. No substitutes, no kidding-uncut and thick? Call me quick! EBay GWM, 33, 6', 185#, bl/bl, bottom, seeks mellow fellow. LTR w/ Capricorn or Virgo. EXT 2310.

Dynamic, Committed Deep

Love & Happiness - Sensitive, caring, mature, educated, disabled guy invited spiritual, caring, athletic, adventurous, young, warm guy with a big heart and high self-esteem to enjoy loving committed monogamous relationship. EXT 2311.

Cute Boyish Asian - Hi, I'm

looking for tall, muscular, handsome, men for fun times. We must have same interests, playing video games, Karaoke (Cantones or English.) I'm 5'7", bln hr brown eyes, weight? Serious guys only. EXT 2312.

Brawny Bear Seeks Cub

GWM, 38, 6', 250#, fun loving, romantic, light drinker, non-smoker, honest top versatile. You: GWM/GHM, 5'5"-6', bottom versatile 30-45. Interest: bingo, bowlng, music, dinnng out, movies, flea markets, thrift stores. Walks moonlight cuddling and bedroom adventures. EXT 2313.

Seeking SF Top GWM - For raw penetration. You are younger than I, like drinking and eating out, given to romance. We are healthy and very affectionate. Me: GWM, early 50s, 5'11", 220# of non-attitude. EXT 2305.

New To San Francisco - GJM, professional, romantic, honest, attractive, 32, 5'7", 135#. I enjoy the outdoors, travelling, eating out, movies and quiet evening at home. If you are honest, down to earth & sincere we were made for each other. EXT 2348.

I Want You To Want Me - 35yo, 5'9", 170#, masculine, well fit Latin male seeks in shape masculine rugged handsome man 30-40's, for full service hot tongue and hot attitude a +. EXT 2303.

Seeking Friendship

- & Sensitive soul mate. 38yo, GWM, 6', 155#, clean shaven & HIV, looking for 25-35yo GWM who is sincere & fun loving. I'm intelligent, yet I'm a smoker who enjoys live music (R&B) & unpretentious bars. More into Haight than Castro lifestyle. Defiantly anti-representational (whiners & chronic complainers need not respond.) EXT 2304.

Discreet, Hung, Black Top

- 40, enjoys masculine bottoms with football players type build. Please be sincere, available, easy to reach by phone and able to travel to the Ebay weeknights. Tall, husky, mustached men a +. Thank you. EXT 2231.

Prince Albert or Water Sports?

- Seeks top Ita/White clean-cut, healthy, HIV+, pig, 24-32yo, into outdoors, not bar scene. Me: LM 23, 5'5", eco-student, shaved-head w/ piercings. A total pig ready to service you. Well hung tatts a +. EXT 2210.

Seeking Friendship Romance

GWM, 28, 5'10", 155#, br/gr, athletic, masculine, HIV+, goatee, many interests. Seeking romantic GWM where sex is not the priority of first date. I like 30-40, drk hair, healthy, athletic, mustache/goatee a plus, masculine, nice body, sense of humor and not bar scene. EXT 2404.

Seeking SF GWM Top For

GWM bottom, LTR oriented, who likes to wine and dine. Generous and affectionate seeks younger HIV+ healthy fine for raw penetration. Weekend dates in SF. Me: GWM, 53, 5'11", 220# of non-attitude. EXT 2405.

Body Builder - Are you a body builder who likes being admired?

Strip down to shorts and pose for me. Explore fantasies. Handsome GWM, 6'1", 175#, 41, HIV, turned on by muscles. No smokers. EXT 2419.

Making Love Is What I Seek

- With under 45, gay, bi, even bisexual man who prefers or can relate well to being with attr older gentleman, 71, 5'8", 160# both in or out of bed for an on going basis. I'm friendly, romantic, sexual and open to LTR. EXT 2406.

Buff/Hairy Bottom Seeks Butch

Top - I've tried the ads before but had no success. I'm short, hairy, gym toned, 36 years old, GWM. I'm searching for LTR w/ a white or latin top, gym toned, smoking okay, 30 to 40 years old considered as being good looking, please be employed and sincere. EXT 2407.

Exotic Boy Seeks Boyfriend

I'm tall, slim, black hair, brown eyes w/ a European back ground. If you're WM 28-40 who's good-looking masculine and in shape then let's meet. Please be honest, drug free and HIV-. EXT 2408.

Hopeful Romantic - Me: 41yo, 6", 185#, handsome, masculine, drk thinnng hair, good build, honest, loving, romantic, passionate, relationship oriented, definitely a top yet flexible and HIV+, but extremely healthy. You: younger, br/bl, honest, romantic. Us: making love under the stars, holding hands in the movies, long hours of kissing and rights in front of the fire. EXT 2416.

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Buffed GBM 4 Quality GWM - Masculine, muscled, intelligent, spirited, African-American exec seeks versatile, witty, confident, good looking Euro-American hunk for sex, laughs, friendship... maybe more!!! EXT 2410.

Looking For Latin Lover - 30yo WM, some say I'm handsome, 5'7", 155#, br/b. Looking for stable, fun loving, good sense of humor type who is not afraid of commitment. I like movies, music, quiet nights at home & nights on the town. smoker. If you don't call we'll never know. EXT 2412.

A Real Find - Attractive GAM, 28, 5'7", gym toned, professional. Enjoy the outdoors and the indoors. You: attractive, 26-32, goal-oriented, stable. Race not important. EXT 2411.

Are You a Bottom, HIV+ - Who needs a strong yet sensitive top? Athletic, well-endowed WM, 35, 6'2", 190#, HIV+, seeks 20-35 muscular guy. NS for possible LTR. EXT 2401.

Lonely Cut AM - 27, swimmer built, smooth body, hairless legs and sexy voice. You: sincere, romantic, sensuous, generous and honest. If you are 6' tall or above, give a ring. EXT 2413.

Santa Rosa Area - Me: Cancer WM young looking 38, 5'8", 147#, br/b, 64m toned bubble butt bottom, enjoys working out, dancing, travel 64m toned 28-40 similar interests topman, scorpio drk hair & eyes a plus. EXT 2414.

Seeking Relationship - Sam 25, 5', 110#, HIV-, seeks HIV-, GWM between 19 to 35. Looking for friendship maybe more. EXT 2415.

Married Gent Only - English bachelor, older, experienced in sensuality w/ private abode admires younger man & will do his will exactly, precisely. EXT 2417.

Asian Male Bottom - HIV+ seeks HIV+ tops for friendship or more, 30-45, medium build, GLM/GAM/GWM. I'm 35, 135#, 5'3". EXT 2420.

New Friend? - WM, 50, native of SF. My interests are hiking, the city, stock mkt, travel, my new p.c. movies etc. All ages welcome. EXT 2418.

19 Year Old - Gay student, 5'11", slim, loyal sincere, educated. You: under 30, educated, sincere. EXT 2439.

SEEKING ADVENTURE

M-M

Free Quality Massage - For nicely built young men who take good care of themselves. I'm 6'2", 175#, 40, gldkng, masculine. Come stretch out on my table for a safe pleasurable experience. Sincere only. EXT 2215.

Attention Hot Bottoms - If the following interests you, please call! Kissing, hot, romantic, dinner, porno, 8 1/2" x 6" hard, cocktails, fun, 39yo, suck, fucking, in shape, 165#, 6', big hand, top!!! Bottom dad, uncum, NS, a+. EXT 2221.

Hang-On, I'm Coming - GWM, 31, 5'11", 165#, HIV+. Seeks males who are HIV+ or negative, for hot times, and new friendship. Pen-pals welcome. EXT 2315.

Hot Handsome Hung Top - 39, 6', 160#, br/b, healthy, HIV+, established, affectionate, romantic, at home king of guy. Seeking GWM/GLM, masculine, in shape bottoms, 35-50. Hairy, beard, uncum, NS a+. EXT 2217.

Will Train Skinny Boy - Intrigued with bad? I'll show the right boy the ropes. You: 5'6" or less, very thin, under 35. Me: 5'8" strong yet sensitive. HIV-a must. EXT 2238.

Do Opposites Attract? - I'm a slim, healthy, HIV-, early 50's, GWM, fair, smooth, smaller, endowed, natural bottom. I'm very turned on to topmen, hairy, chests, bigger endowments, and much more. What about you? EXT 2218.

Sonoma-Marin County Studs - Looking for hot, horny, hung studs for weekly safe sex parties. Please be between 18-35 and ready for hot man to man action. Limited to 10-12 hot guys. Call w/ description for more info. EXT 2219.

Hunting for Hung Men - 34, GWM, 5'9", 145#, br/b trim goatee, smooth swimmer's build, 30" waist, 7.5" cut thick. Serious big dick fetish for hung in shape men under 38yo who like to show it off and play. White preferred. NS only. EXT 2220.

The Hottest Guy In Town - Even the hottest guy in town is not worth you risking your health over. Play safe! Protect yourself & those you play with. Always wear a condom when having anal sex, & don't exchange bodily fluids. If you're HIV+, don't panic, get early treatment, talk to someone that can help, & still play safe EXT 2424.

Chocolate Chip Wanted - Seeing very dark-skinned, beefy men over 40. Be mature, uncum and thickly-endowed. Good mind and body more important than looks. Big hands a plus! EXT 2324.

Late Morning Sex Buddy Wanted - Ass massage- lite spanking. Teddy bear dad needs bottom son. Me: Attrac, GWM, 45, 6'5", 280#, football player's build. You: Attrac, GWM, 18-35, slim, smooth-moderate body hair, with great buns. You need it bad! You won't regret it. EXT 2345.

Washboard Abs? - Muscular, clean cut, clean shaven, GWM, wants to service lean, hung guy who enjoys long, slow oral worship (rubbers ok). This GWM is darkly handsome, 5'5", 135#, 35yo, hard hairy chest, exceptionally talented, NS, ND, HIV-, in SF. EXT 2224.

On Going Encounters - Me: eBay top WM, 40s, gldkng, br/b, 155#, 5'11", HIV-, trim & tight body, nice uncum 8" (GA/FP) easy going nice guy. You: total bottom gldkng, nice guy, in good shape, HIV-, similar size to me. Seeks eBay men for hot safe sex, open to more. EXT 2225.

Aggressive Bottom - Eager and horny 29yo guy in Sonoma Co. looking for masculine, in-shape discreet guys under 30s. Let's fuck all weekend! EXT 2328.

Horny Seniors Wanted - Mature, hung, eBay, black man enjoys 1 on 1 and small group sessions (videos, aroma, drinks) w/ serious, sincere, free-to-travel men in their 50's and 60's. No beeper, VM, car phones, please. All races and body types welcome. EXT 2321.

Masculine Hairy Bear - GWM, 45yo, 6', 195#, in shape. Hairy masculine man looking for other hairy men. Into hot JO and mutual hairy butt-sniffing. Must be verbal, hairy a must, Ebay only, hairy ass a plus. EXT 2226.

Butt, Oral Service, Party? - Two sexy guys, one white and one black, into total service especially hot bubble butts. If you are 18-35, like to party, get serviced, groups, maybe top, give us a call, now is your chance. Latins and Blacks a+. Please be slender. EXT 2236.

Bi Top Curious - Handsome WM professional, discrete, sexy, romantic, HIV-, 49, 5'8", 170#, well built. Looking for sexy masculine bottom w/ hungry mouth and eager to please. HIV-. EXT 2314.

Great Head - GWM, friendly, fun. Lvs to suck and play with cock. You: 18-35, GWM/Straight trim, masculine. Want to lay back on a regular basis. S.F./Peninsula OK. EXT 2316.

Married Man Only - I am older, pliable, obedient, conservative bachelor. I do you bidding exactly, precisely. Upper Height. EXT 2317.

Dennis - You're 40, bl/bl, and you answered my ad "All Those Suites." Would like to get in touch but you didn't leave a number. Call and leave your number this time, OK. EXT 2318.

Good Hot Sex - Is all I want. I'm handsome muscular 8 1/2, Italian, top to bottom and very oral. You be hot hung or nice ass. EXT 2319.

Here is My Fantasy - I lay naked on my bed. You walk in (Door Open) w/ a hard on. You grease my man hole & fuck my ass. Age, race unimportant, size is. EXT 2320.

BM, 35, 6'1" Goodlooking - Wants BM, 18-45yo. I can take 10" of manhood. No gag, I guarantee you'll be amazed. Deep throat. EXT 2222.

ISO Fat Dong Silver! - Tall GWM, 40's, HIV, smoker, looking for GWM guy Friday (Saturday Sunday will do too) 40-56 w/ fat cut tool for oral worship. EXT 2322.

I Want to Watch - You alone or w/ another or in a small group possible join in or not, your decision. Very discreet, have my own place. Call for my description and more info. EXT 2326.

Erotic Masseur - Seeks sensitive men, 18-50 interested in intensive erotic pleasures. I'm 6'3", 42, 188#, and very keen on giving you something you have only dreamed about. EXT 2327.

GBM seeks BM - Gay, Bi, Straight, 35+, masculine, HIV-, thick uncum w/ hairy balls. I love to suck both, even & weekends, eBay, mustache & chocolate complex is a plus. Give it a shot. You will enjoy it. I promise. EXT 2329.

Double Your Pleasure - Two horny buddies, both hung very big, like watching each other get serviced. One gay, one straight. Looking for talented, deep throats. Call only if you're very hungry. EXT 2340.

Amateur Model - Trim straight-acting, WM, 39 looking for lean, tight-bodied guys in 20's or 30's to pose naked. Free pictures. EXT 2341.

East Bay GWM - Seeking top/versatile fuck buddy 44yo, 160#, HIV-, average build, br/b, any race, uncum a plus. EXT 2226.

Fat Oral Pig Wanted - You: over 300#, under 6', clean shaven love to suck dick. Me: 6", 200#, balding, 42yo, average endowment. I get off on smooth fat guys sucking my dick. No bears please. EXT 2420.

Hypotenuse Sought - For bizarre love triangle. Versatile pale skater to tag team w/ mask/goodlooking, clean cut, German Dad, 35, 5'11", 170#, thick nipples shroomed veined dick. Dirty mind bearded blue collar a+. EXT 2342.

Top Seeks Deep Throat & Ass - Do you like your men hot, hung, handsome, & hairy? Totally top, 6'2", 36yo, 185#, wants totally insatiable bottom. You should be masculine, in shape, under 45yo, and able to handle hours of serious action. EXT 2344.

Straight/Bi or Latin Wanted - WM, 40, 6', 200#, sucks young 18-20yo cock if you are straight or bi-curious, smooth, skinny and young looking. If you work out, don't answer this add. I like small, skinny masculine guys. Cum over and get your rocks off. EXT 2424.

Enjoy Waiting for the Bus - GWM, 6", 200#, 39, br/b seeks clean, HIV-men who desire to be serviced orally. Located at Castro/Market. Size and race not important. You won't be sorry. Days/Evening available. EXT 2425.

Hot, Hairy, Tight Latino Ass - Looking for black tops who enjoys fucking Latino ass. I'm 42, slender & hot. I can take a big fat dick at my man hole. Give it a try, you will enjoy, so will I. EXT 2426.

Are You - A heavy set masculine man who enjoys his cock and balls worship! Long sessions & regular servicing anal. Big balls and verbal abuse a plus. EXT 2427.

Safe Sex Party - Monthly, very selective, must be very goodlooking, great body, 10-30 men per group depending on space. Check clothes, except underwear/shorts. EXT 2428.

At Your Service! - Expert, hassle free, laid back oral service by hot Italian bottom. Available days and evenings. Seeking hot men to service and drain. No reciprocation desired. Straight and Bi men welcome. Castro Location. Call for description. EXT 2325.

Strikingly Handsome Devil - GWM, 25, 5'11", 175#, athletic, cultured & fun loving seeks "Big boys," 25-30 who are cute, hot, and a lot of fun for dates and stuff. EXT 2429.

Mariod BiWM - Seeking small endowed top day time lessons. Me: 5'6", 135#, 50. You: discreet, respect limits, use your place. EXT 2441.

Two Heads are Better Than One - Unparalleled oral service for adventurous, average to masculine men, 18-45. Two GWM experts are available and eager to drain you. We are both fit, clean and sane and enjoy oral encounters. EXT 2340.

Guy Packing Seven Plus - Wanting experienced early forties dad to get you off. All the way. I can take it. HIV-, hairy, husky, blonde, bear has videos to please gay, bi-curious, straight, first timers, come one, come all. EXT 2332.

Amateur Model - Trim straight-acting, WM, 39 looking for lean, tight-bodied guys in 20's or 30's to pose naked. Free pictures. EXT 2341.

GWM, 45, 5'11", 190# - Muscular, balding, very hairy, HIV-, uncum seeks younger in-shape, HIV-, GWM or GLM for docking, JO, and foreskin stimulation. EXT 2330.

South Bay/Peninsula - Homy, blond, HIV-, 5'8", 160#, gym-toned, 32, needs to be serviced regularly. If you're under 45 w/ weight prop, to height then I want to pump your face and butt. Discreet only. EXT 2343.

Tough Titty - Surrender, lean, hairy chest, basket ass to mask/goodlooking, clean cut, German Dad, 35, 5'11", 170#, thick nipples shroomed veined dick. Dirty mind bearded blue collar a+. EXT 2342.

Hot Blooded Latin Guy - GLM, 5'9", 160#, 25yo, very attractive, spontaneous, energetic, creative & sexy, w/ a tendency to be wild and crazy and the ability to be serious and sweet. Seeks cute guys 20-35 who think they can take all that. EXT 2344.

Hairy Ass Arab - Good looking Arab is looking for FF top to train and stretch his great ass. Only experienced men. EXT 2422.

Rubber/Leather - GWM, 40/looks 29) blonde, 5'6", 140, bottom, seeks creative/dominant top into rubber & leather, like combination of both, into hoods breath control, not into heavy pain, HIV+, Ebay or SF. EXT 2442.

Tough Enough? - You're lean, young, muscular, hard-bodied, attractive, fit, GWM, 5'9", 155#, will wrestle you to the ground and thoroughly work you over, optionally punishing your hard abs. Safe, sane, limits respected. EXT 2443.

Dildos - GBM, stock, handsome, hung, seeks big stocky, fat men who enjoy enjoy long dildo play. EXT 2444.

Are You - A heavy set masculine man who enjoys his cock and balls worship! Long sessions & regular servicing anal. Big balls and verbal abuse a plus. EXT 2425.

Handsome Daddy, 44, Smoker - Needs full-time boy to spank, paddle, whip, piss on, squeeze balls and nipples, service me, hug, kiss and cuddle. Relationship oriented preferred. EXT 2228.

Bootlicker, Foot Fetishist - Older gent seeks good looking hunk to live out fantasy. Only totally safe dry sex. It would probably be worth your while to answer. EXT 2333.

ISO Skilled Depth Toplist - To the elbow easy, FFB, wants your biceps. Fit, 59, 5'11", 160#, bearded, tatts, deepthroat service needs opening to third shakra. Any age, race, small skilled hands, patience to get thru the tight place, please! EXT 2229.

Hungry Toilet Fuck Boy - Needs regular use from redneck straight masculine studs. Any race or age. Piss, shit, snot, spit, verbal abuse humiliation needed. EXT 2230.

The Hottest Guy In Town - Even the hottest guy in town is not worth you risking your health over. Play safe! Protect yourself & those you play with. Always wear a condom when having anal sex, & don't exchange bodily fluids. If you're HIV+, don't panic, get early treatment, talk to someone that can help, & still play safe. EXT 2429.

GWM, 45, 5'11", 190# - Muscular, balding, very hairy, HIV-, uncum seeks younger in-shape, HIV-, GWM or GLM for docking, JO, and foreskin stimulation. EXT 2330.

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GWM, 45, 5'11", 190# - Muscular, balding, very hairy, HIV-, uncum seeks younger in-shape, HIV-, GWM or GLM for docking, JO, and foreskin stimulation. EXT 2330.

Diaper Discipline - Were you kept in diapers past the age of 5 for bed wetting or discipline. This discreet "Daddy" will return to you those special times when you could wet yourself and be changed. "Daddy" will diaper and change you and treat you like the big baby you really are. Call and leave your name and a short story of your past treatment and baby ways. EXT 2331.

Seeking Huge Nipples - I'm hot muscular, 37. I want to meet a gldkng guy w/ huge protruding nipples. Please be sincere, no games, flakes. EXT 2227.

Palio Alto GAM - 35, 5'11", 205#, smooth chested, seeks tit sucker to tick, bite, suck my nipples, make me moan. Prefer unshaven face, in return I'll suck your cock. Palo Alto area only. EXT 2334.

Muscle-Mauling Mayhem! - Bare-ass in boots for no-holds-barred wrestling, gloved boxing, bare fisted sparring, CBT duels, pco-pounding - rough-house action, plus massage, ball sucking, leather, belts. I'm a hard hairy hunk of a man looking for same. Hairy-chested blondes, blacks, Mexicans most welcome. EXT 2335.

Erotic Spankings - Handsome big brother, 38, wants to spank bad boys (18-25). JO, dild play, humiliation games are possible. Curious first-timers welcome; you needn't be gorgeous, though preffer smooth. Tell me your spanking fantasy! (San Jose or San Francisco.) EXT 2430.

Barefoot Buddy - Gldkng, masc., bearded Ebay GWM seeks other men into reciprocal licking, kissing, smooching, caressing our clean, moist barefeet. I'm HIV-, NA, ND & I like all over body play & indulging ourselves by mutual barefoot action/fantasy/ JO. I'm 59, 140#. East bay area preferred. EXT 2431.

Hungry Toilet Fuck Boy - Needs regular use from redneck straight dirty dudes. Piss, shit, snot, verbal abuse, humiliation needed. Real hungry. EXT 2432.

Have 900 Block - Black block 1498, 2144, ex-football jock 1576. Give a call would love to service you. EXT 2433.

East Bay Foot Stool Slave - Late 40's, HIV-, cut, attr. man will crawl to sexy footed masters & do your sexual bidding. Ebay masters from 38 to 60 preferred. I'll worship you nicely, serious, will ans all! EXT 2435.

COUPLES

Gldkng, GWCPPL in East Contra Costa - Top: 50, 6'3", 215#, dark hair/boy, HIV-. Bottom: 40, 235#, 5'10", dark beard/hair, HIV-, 3rd man to share our bed and lives. Please be mature, masculine, versatile (more top than bottom) mobile, HIV-, and ready to play safe. Age, race, size, looks unimportant. Be honest & sincere. EXT 2436.

Co-Parenting - 27yo GWM seeks female for very serious arrangement. I am responsible, very caring, and a pretty cool guy w/ a strong desire to be a dad. Lets talk and see what transpires. EXT 2336.

Still only 98¢ per minute to respond to ads!

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this week

Photo: Christine Alicino

Wanna Submit?

Send calendar listings to:

This Week
Bay Area Reporter
395 9th Street
San Francisco, CA 94103

Deadline is the Thursday before issue date.

F 31

Banjo

One man solo minstrel extravaganza by Bob Davis. Thurs.-Sat. thru 4/15. \$10-12. 8pm. Climate Theatre, 252 9th St. **626-9196**.

Betrayal

Harold Pinter's drama of an adulterous affair. Thurs.-Sat. at 8pm thru 4/8. \$11-13. New Conservatory Theatre, 25 Van Ness Ave. **861-8972**.

Blood Lines

Carmen de Monteflores's drama about growing up Puerto Rican. Fri. & Sat. at 8pm, Sun. at 7pm thru 4/2. \$6-15. Noh Space, 2840 Mariposa St. **510-548-6547**.

Camille

Theater of the Ridiculous founder Charles Ludlam's parody veers between high and low culture, directed by David Hawkins. Wed.-Sun. thru 4/8, call for times. \$12-18. 8pm. Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926 16th St. **861-5079**.

Lo-Cal

Delicious art without all the fat, curated by Marisa Hernandez. Wed.-Sat., 12-5pm thru 4/15. Southern Exposure, 401 Alabama. **863-2141**.

Russian singer
Tamara Gverdtsiteli
makes her U.S.
debut at the
Palace of Fine Arts,
SEE SAT



Chanticleer
performs *Chant*
by *Candlelight*,
SEE SAT

Missing Link

Recent work by Matthew Link, including *Positive Faith: Christians with HIV and From a Secret Place: America's Families Cope With the Coming Out Process of Gay and Lesbian Youth*. \$5. 8:30pm. ATA, 992 Valencia. **824-3890**.

Mission Sole

Mixed media show by Mission art-makers. Thurs.-Sat. thru 4/15. Collision, 417 14th St. **431-4074**.

Nico, My Empty Pages

Life of the late singer/actress, written and performed by Omewenene Grimstone. Thurs.-Sat. thru 4/1. \$10. 8pm. Bernice St. Playhouse, 21 Bernice St. **863-5946**.

Once in A Blue Moon

Revue of rarely heard musical theatre songs from the '20s-40s. Thurs.-Sun. at various times thru 4/15. \$15. 8pm. New Conservatory Theatre, 25 Van Ness Ave. **861-8972**.

Orgasms for Survival

Performers in the diva/dyke revolution. Fri. & Sat. \$7-12. 8pm. 848 Divisadero. **641-8224**.

Other Minds Festival II

Concerts, discussions and demonstrations by distinguished composers and performers. Panels & concerts thru 4/1. Tonight, music composed for and performed by Kronos Quartet. \$16 advance, \$18 door. 7:30pm. Center for the Arts Theater, 700 Howard St. **978-ARTS**.

Patrick Murphy Is Not Promiscuous

Gregory O'Neill's solo performance piece: adventures as a "full-body" masseur. Fridays thru March. \$10. 10pm. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. **861-7933**.

The Play's the Thing

A.C.T.'s production of P.G. Wodehouse's adaptation. Thurs 4/2; call for times. \$13-39. 8pm. Stage Door Theatre, 420 Mason St. **749-2ACT**.

She Dares to Drum

Percussion play composed and performed by Barbara Borden. Thurs.-Sat. at 8:30pm thru 4/8. \$8-12. The Marsh, 1062 Valencia. **826-5750**.

The Stepford Wives

The Sick and Twisted Players' interpretation. Thurs.-Sat. at 8pm thru 4/29. \$12-15. New Conservatory Theatre, 25 Van Ness Ave. **861-8972**.

Women's Cancer Benefit

Two evenings of performance, spoken word and music to benefit Women's Cancer Resource Center and Breast Cancer Action. Fri. & Sat. \$12-100. 8:30pm. New Performance Gallery, 3153 17th St. **863-9834**.

SA

1

The Beerfest

Microbrews, music, foodtasting. Benefits Face to Face/Sonoma Co. AIDS Network. \$18 advance, \$22 door. 1-5pm. Luther Burbank Center for the Arts, 50 Mark West Springs Rd., Santa Rosa. **(707) 887-7031**.

SU 2

Cosi fan tutte

Conservatory Opera Theatre

presents Mozart's opera in

English. \$15. 2pm. Hellman

Hall, SF Conservatory of

Music, 1201 Ortega St. **759-3475**.

Rednour curate art show
filled with pussy. Sundays
thru 4/23. 1-5pm. 848
Divisadero. **885-6335**.

M 3

April Fools!

Cabaret from the Jazz Era by

the Jesters. \$12. 8pm. The

Plush Room, 940 Sutter.

885-2800.

Burning Point

Series of photographs by

Ciara Beddingfield. Reception

tonight, thru April. Mad

Magda's Russian Tea Room,

579 Hayes. **864-7654**.

Post Pr

Raphael

Mario C

Dowling, T

St. **543-00**

Ranch O

Oblivion

Black-and-

White

from Mich

Sat. 11-5:30

Koch Gal

421-0122

The S

Darran C

women wh

husbands.

4/23. 17-2

Bldg. D

441-8822

Transit

Spaces

Sculpture

Messenger

Alexandria

Buehren G

St. **863-28**

W

Hugh Shurley

Photo collages. Mon.-Sat.

10-6pm thru 4/8. John Pence

Gallery, 750 Post St.

441-1138

Wimmin's

Poetry Reading

Features Jennifer Stone,

free. 7pm. The Long Haul,

3124 Shattuck Ave.,

Berkeley. **510) 654-7574**.

Sarah B

"Artist and

photos, pa

memorabili

actress.

Performing

Museum,

255-4800

Brother

Spare, S

Site-specific

by Emie G

TU 4

The Sick and
Twisted Players
do *The Stepford*
Wives,

SEE FRI



arts of Mexican descent. Tues.-Sun. thru 5/14. \$4. Center for the Arts, 701 Mission St. **978-ARTS**.

Earplay Contemporary American chamber music. \$18. 8pm. Center for the Arts Forum, 701 Mission St. **978-ARTS**.

Scott Heim Reading from his novel *Mysterious Skin*, free. 7:30pm. A Different Light, 489 Castro. **431-0891**.

Post Pre-Raphaelites Mario Calvano, Michael Dowling, others. Tues.-Sat. 4/8. Terrain, 165 Jessie St. **543-0656**.

Ranch and Oblivion Black-and-white photographs from Michael Light. Tues.-Sat. 11:30am thru 4/29. Robert Koch Gallery, 49 Geary. **21-0122**.

The Sirens Sarah Cloud's play about women who kill their abusive husbands. Wed.-Sun. thru 4/23. \$17-23. Magic Theatre, 1015 Market St. **41-8822**.

Transitional Spaces Sculpture by Mark Messinger and paintings by Alexandria Levin. Thru 4/5. De Young Gallery, 355 Hayes St. **863-2891**.

Raymond Saunders: Black Paintings Themes from African-American life in the work of a pre-eminent Bay Area painter. Wed.-Sun., 10am-4:45pm thru 4/30. \$5. de Young Museum, Golden Gate Park. **863-3330**.

Susan Sontag **Tony Kushner** Onstage conversation on art and politics between acclaimed essayist and *Angels in America* playwright. \$15. 8pm. Herbst Theatre, 401 Van Ness Ave. **392-4400**.

Brother, Can You Spare Some Time? Site-specific film installation by Emile Gehr, 1995 Adaline

Sarah Bernhardt as Flora Tosca in 1887, exhibits at SFPALM, SEE WED

Kent Award exhibition. Tues.-Sun. thru 4/30. Walter/ McBean Gallery, SFAI, 800 Chestnut. **771-7020**.

Fruit Punch

Gay men's radio program, every Wed. 7pm. KPFA, 94 FM.

Gay Skate

Rink full of queers on roller-skates. \$5 includes skates rental. 8-10:30pm. Rolladium Roller Rink, 363 North Amphlett, San Mateo. Info: **96-SKATE**.

Inscrutable Objects

"Image and Icon in Recent Photography." \$4. Tues.-Sun., 11am-5pm thru 5/7. Ansel Adams Center for Photography, 250 4th St. **495-7000**.

Out of My Room!

Local high schoolers and college freshmen reproduce parts of their bedrooms, reception tonight, 5pm. With "Impositions" and "Moments." Mon.-Fri. thru 5/2. Student Center Art Gallery, SFSU, 1650 Holloway. **338-2580**.

Body Songs

Dances by Bonnie Simoa Dance Co. Thurs.-Sat. \$10. 8:30pm. Dancers' Group/Footwork, 3221 22nd St. **824-5044**.

Bingo

Gay bingo benefits Coming Home Hospice, every Thurs. \$12. 6pm. Most Holy Redeemer Church, 100 Diamond St. **241-0425**.

Fruit Night

Fresh-squeezed screwdrivers, \$2. 8:30pm. The Lion Pub, 2062 Divisadero. **567-6565**.



TH 6

The Killer

Absurdist whodunit by Ionesco. Thurs. thru 4/6. \$7. 8:30pm. Exit Theatre, 156 Eddy. **673-3847**.

Liquid Soap

Improvised soap that invites the audience to steer the storyline. Thurs. thru 4/6. \$7. 10:15pm. Climate Theater, 252 9th St. **588-0520**.

Sidney Lumet

Reading by award-winning film director. \$15. 8pm. Herbst Theatre, 401 Van Ness Ave. **392-4400**.

Trespass Knot

Eureka Theatre and the Paul Dresher Ensemble present AGape Performance Group's operatic parable. Preview tonight, \$8. Thurs.-Sat. thru 4/15. \$14. 8:30pm. Somar Gallery Theatre, 934 Brannan. **552-1770**.

W 5

Sarah Bernhardt

"Artist and Icon," exhibit of photos, paintings, posters, memorabilia of the great actress. Thru 6/24. SF Performing Arts Library & Museum, 399 Grove. **55-4800**.

Brother, Can You Spare Some Time?

Site-specific film installation by Emile Gehr, 1995 Adaline



Photo: Marc Geller

This Week's Dinner Specials

Fresh Poached Salmon in white wine with lemon-caper sauce, vegetable & chef's rice.....9.75

Chicken Stroganoff with sour cream, mushrooms & marsala wine, over fettucini.....8.75

All-American Meatloaf with mashed potatoes & gravy.....7.95

Surf & Turf—grilled N.Y. Steak topped with rock shrimp sauteed scampi-style with garlic, butter, herbs & white wine.....13.95

Prime Rib au jus.....12.50

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531 Castro Street, between 18th/19th Breakfast/Lunch served from 8:00 AM daily Dinner served from 5:00 PM

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Admission \$20

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Arts Editor seeks writers for the *Bay Area Reporter*'s arts and entertainment section.

If you're interested in writing about people, arts and culture and have a proven track record as a writer, please send a cover letter and published clips (no more than three, please) to:

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BAY AREA REPORTER

BAZAAR

MR. MARCUS

Wolf in Philly and SF, Buddy in Albuquerque

As the days spin toward Memorial Day, when the 16th International Mr. Leather and IMsL (July) will be chosen in Chicago, more names were added to the list of hopefuls this past weekend. In Philadelphia on Sunday and in Albuquerque on Saturday, two more aspirants for each title were chosen and it looks like it will be a hot time in Chicago in May and July.

Let me state here and now that Albuquerque, New Mexico has come into its own. Since their first Mr. NM Drummer contest back in 1991, the leather-title holder movement and the leather community have come to the fore as major players. Leather is alive and well in New Mexico.

Produced by the Sandia Leathermen and The Ranch bar in Albuquerque, the second Mr. New Mexico Leather and the first Ms. New Mexico Leather contests were held in the Land of Enchantment. A record-breaking crowd was on hand for this first-class extravaganza in which five men vied for the male title and three women competed for the first Ms. New Mexico Leather title.

All eight were required to perform fantasies, the quality of which would rival any major competition.

It was *de rigueur* as these events go, all the way up to Saturday night that is. There was the usual meet and greet, the introduction of judges and contestants, on Friday and pre-judging on Saturday morning. The contest was on Saturday night. J.C. Moore, owner of the Ranch in his usual "out of the limelight" stance, was jubilant with the results and so was the enthusiastic audience.

With a \$25 weekend package, age, people from Los Angeles, San Diego, San Francisco, Denver, Phoenix, Dallas, and even Toronto were on hand for the event, including Bootsy from Houston and Dallas, the major vendor all weekend.

IMsL Cindy Bookout emceed on Friday with the jock show and there were speeches and entertainment by the major title-holders, who conducted the farcical "Idafat" competition. (Idafat means "I'll Do Anything For A Title.") This mock competition had the audience howling. In the end, Cindy Bookout won the Ms. Idafat title as the demure (but scheming) Dorothy. It was truly hilarious and the skit was created in a matter of 20 minutes.

As the head judge, I can say the quality of the contestants was top-notch, like nothing I've seen in many years judging. The females were within one or two points of each other, displaying a keen sense of what they were doing.

The opening number on Saturday was a delight! All eight contestants participated in



Photo: Mr. Marcus

Lady Willow is the first Ms. New Mexico Leather and Buck LaRue is the second Mr. New Mexico Leather. They were chosen last Saturday night, March 25, at the Ranch in Albuquerque.

a fantasy to the tune of "Working on The Chain Gang" (with all the appropriate tools and chains). Very hot!

The emcee was IML Jeffrey Tucker, who presented a scintillating stint injected with humorous anecdotes from all the airline magazines he's picked up on those long flights he's been making since last May. Fabulous job. Jeff has 59 days left on his IML reign, but he's holding up just fine!

I could inject another 1000 words about the Albuquerque weekend, but I think I've conveyed the superior spirit of the event. When the big Kahuna of leather in New Mexico, Pat Sanchez, is beaming with pride for his community, you know you've made it. Unity and pride were on display everywhere, and teamwork was very much in evidence. Mr. NM Leather '95, Buddy LaRue, and the first Ms. NM, Leather Lady Willow, have dynamic support behind them. They will both compete in the next level of competition. I daresay their presence at IML

and IMsL will not go unnoticed.

Bravo to the Sandia Leathermen, J.C. Moore of the Ranch, Motorcyclists of NM, and especially Steve Benoit and James Collins; the dream they envisioned not too long ago is now a reality. And I want to express my personal thanks to my "guide" Carl, whose assistance in all my emergencies throughout the weekend helped avoid any disasters. The first male runner-up was Steve Warden and the second runner-up (also male) was "Wild Bill" Huff. Female second runner-up was "Leslie" and the first runner-up, Diva Marie. You would have loved it!

In Philadelphia last weekend, the Mr. and Ms. Leather contests were not without their exciting moments. Frank Nowicki emceed another successful, jam-packed event. Wolf Klumph won the male title; Suzette Byanic won the female title.

As for the excitement, when emcee Frank Nowicki arrived at a Philadelphia leather store, he was unaware that the shop had just been robbed and when he appeared at the door in a police uniform asking where the piercing jewelry was located, the staff was aghast!

On the homefront last Thursday a big crowd converged on the SF Eagle for its big leather contest. There were four contestants (Mike Ferguson, Joe Hesselgesser, Wolf Mirasol and Joe Perry) who endured a pre-judging session, and appeared before the crowd in leather cruisewear, minimal clothing and full leather.

The hopefuls survived the pre-judging, which was overseen by head judge Andy Rose with assistance from fellow judges Deb Coss, David "Puddles" Dsart, Peter Haase and Mike McNamee. Earlier in

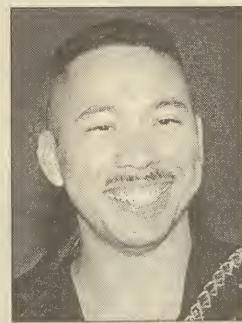


Photo: Tim Wong

Wolf Mirasol is Mr. SF-Eagle. He won over three other contestants last Thursday, March 23. He will compete for Mr. SF Leather on April 22.

the day, they proved formidable in their concept of the leather lifestyle.

While the competition interlude started 30 minutes late, by midnight the tallies were counted and Geoffrey James of Rob of Amsterdam was waiting (lurking?) in the wings with measuring tape to size up the winner for the custom leather title vest and belt.

The first runner-up was Mike Ferguson, the tireless volunteer of many fundraisers. And Mr. San Francisco Eagle 1995 is ... Wolf Mirasol, one of the previous bare chest calendar winners and a tie winner last week with Andy Rose for Mr. June. Wolf donated his \$300 cash prize to the AIDS Emergency Fund within seconds of being handed the check by Eagle manager Bob Bowling. The crowd seemed to be in tune with the selection of the winner and Wolf will represent the Eagle at the Mr. SF Leather Contest on Saturday, March 22.

Since I was out of town all last weekend, I caught only the tail end of the Phoenix U.C. "boots" beerbust at the Eagle on Sunday. Jam-packed, mucho fun, and a fitting end to one of the sunniest weekends we've enjoyed in a long time! ▼



Photo: Mr. Marcus

Be-wigged, be-dildoed and be-pistoled, Lady Willow pumps her "bottom" in the title-winning fantasy at The Ranch in Albuquerque. The audience was wrecked.



The contestants in Albuquerque back row (L. to R.): Wild Bill, Buddy, Casey, Steve and Richard. Front row (L. to R.): Lady Willow, Leslie and Diva Marie.

Events in Leather

Friday, March 31

Mr. Edge Leather '95 will be chosen tonight. The winner gets \$300 in cash and a custom leather vest. The contest begins at 2200, but the \$7 beer bust goes from 2000 to midnight. It's a benefit for AIDS Benefits Counselors and the Deaf AIDS Center, with Danny Williams emceeing. There will also be a Dream Date auction and celebrity judges. The victor will represent the Edge at the Mr. SF Leather Contest.

Saturday, April 1

Mr. SF Leather will be chosen tonight at Pleasuredome, with a big casino party and major, major entertainment, including Kym Wallace of Sacramento and Dyke Daddies Skeeter, B.C. and Jo. This promises to be a real blast, so all you men are welcome to join the festivities.

In Seattle and New York, the march toward IML in Chicago next May continues. Mr. Leather of New York will be chosen at The Tunnel, and the Washington State Mr. Leather contest is at Neighbors. The event in the Big Apple benefits AmFAR as Orlando Diaz passes his sash to a successor. In Seattle, George Morton gives it up in an extravaganza with major leather luminaries on hand to judge and entertainment imported from Las Vegas. If you're anywhere near these two cities, you'll hear the cheers.

At the SF-Eagle tonight, the Golden State Gay Rodeo Association/Bay Area hosts a \$6 beer bust with a "Cheeks in Chaps" contest and door prizes of rodeo merchandise. And at 0200, or earlier, set your clock ahead one hour!

Sunday, April 2

Gold Rush hosts the Eagle beer bust (sloppy joes!) today from 1500 to 1800 for \$8. Benefits Rita Rockett's Ward 5 Brunches and the group itself.

Thursday, April 6

Picking Mr. July 1996 on the bare chest calendar tonight with the action at 2200. Celebrity judges, fun. Win \$100 and adoration - all to benefit the AIDS

Emergency Fund.

Constantines MC hosts a beer bust at Daddy's (formerly the Bear) on Castro from 2000 to 2300 for \$6.

Weekend, April 7-9

Pacific Bears California present Silver State to Golden Gate weekend run with the Satyricons MC of Las Vegas arriving for three days of fundraising for the Nevada AIDS Project. Beer bust Friday from 1900 to 2300; spaghetti feed and beer bust Saturday from 1900 to 2300 with entertainment; Sunday, eye-openers at Daddy's and an interclub brunch.

Leather Pride weekend in Albany, N.Y., featuring the Mr. Empire State Leatherman contest for 1995. This winner goes to the American Leatherman Contest in D.C. in November.

Saturday, April 8

Pegasus MOC one-day run to Filoli House and Gardens (San Mateo County). If you ever watched *Dynasty* (and who didn't?), you'll remember the big mansion in the opening credits. Call (510) 238-0406 for more info.

"The Art of Whipping" by Michael Dane at The Ring discussion group from 1300 to 1500. Call (415) 522-9697 for price and location.

The Knights of Malta celebrate their third anniversary with a reception (by invitation and/or club overlay) from 1800 to 2100 on the Eagle patio. Congratulations!

Alan Selby, Jacques Michaels and Nova Lei present the Diamond Spring Follies II at the Russian Center tonight at 2000. Tix are \$20, and the show introduces new faces of 1995. Call 863-1581 for info.

Saturday, April 15

Yet another IML aspirant. Tonight, Mr. San Diego Leather will be chosen as Zak Topor sashes his successor at Travelodge at the Zoo in San Diego; action at 2000. Call (619) 294-8887. I'll be judging with "Iron" Mike Pereyra and will have all the exclusive photos for you! ▼

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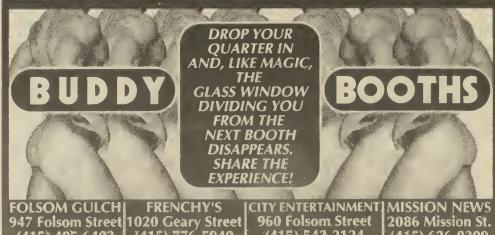
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Differences Deepen Love

The Friendship Chronicles: Letters Between A Gay And A Straight Man
by Chris Hassett and Tom Owen-Towle; Bald Eagle Mountain Press, \$12.95

by Marv. Shaw

Face it — the important friendships between most gay guys are with other gay guys. That's a realization followed by a grin and a shrug, an acknowledgment that for most gay men sexual orientation is a prerequisite of friendship. But must it be? Chris Hassett and Tom Owen-Towle decided 14 years ago that it needn't matter — better yet,

that acceptance of their differences could actually enrich their lives.

Hassett, a gay singer/composer in early maturity, and Owen-Towle, a straight Unitarian minister on the brink of middle age, began a deepening of friendship with an exchange of utterly frank and brilliantly reflective letters they began sending to one another even though they lived in the same city (San Diego) and frequently saw each other. Writing from a solitude that prompted thoughtful analysis and accentuated feeling, each discovered a vital mutuality in their developing friendship.

One of the most powerful realizations was written by Chris to Tom: "What I mean is, the personal energies of our friendship include sexual energy even though we would never

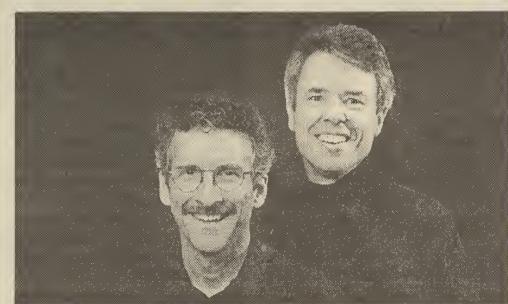


Photo: Greg Murphy

Chris Hassett and Tom Owen-Towle

have genital contact."

As the reader grows to know both men well, their love for each other becomes more and more a strong, tender reality, gradually erasing any suspicion

they have to be somehow special to achieve what they have.

For some, *Friendship Chronicles* will be pure inspiration. ▼

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Melmac

Continued from page 38

Grammy Award when that tradition started (1957), and we know why: She can take a classic like "Stormy Weather" or "Stardust" and put a jazzy spin on it without letting the number

flail out of control. Proportion rules the day — and that is the essence of real musical artistry.

Capitol's *Spotlight* is a great project all around. The sound quality on the recordings is outstanding, the art provocative, and even the program notes are exceptional, hitting as they do all the right torrid points, like

Betty Hutton's drug problems and Keely's divorce from hubby/producer Louis Prima on the grounds of "mental cruelty." These dark touches add an element of reality that makes this musical collection all the more compelling. Otter looks forward to future installments. ▼

Sweet Lips

Continued from page 39

celebrate this momentous event. Kimo's will be having an Oscar party on Monday, March 27, with Will Sweet doing the honors. Come on down and join the fun — win prizes!

San Francisco's most outrageous coming out ball, Closet Ball '95, will be held on Saturday, May 6, at Bimbo's 365 Club. Watch macho men turn into bodacious beauties before your very eyes! See more big-boned gals than you ever

imagined fit themselves comfortably in one room! For tickets call 864-0673.

The investiture of the new emperor and empress, Brian and Donna, will be held at the California Club (1750 Clay) on Saturday, April 1, beginning at 6 p.m. Advance tickets are \$10, and even commoners like you are invited. See all you tiara twirlers there.

Yes, the legendary Empress Maxine is still doing her thing at Old Rick's Gold Room on Geary Street.

Little Kurt is on the plank Thursday mornings at the

Gangway on Larkin Street, and of course, John Weiss still does his fabulous opera night on Sundays.

Oh, before I forget, on Friday, March 31, starting at 9 p.m., Emperor Michael Bowman's 39th birthday bash will get under way at Kimo's. Emperor Steven Rasher and Empress Ginger will be special emcees. The staff of Kimo's is putting it together so it should be a real blast. And reliable word has it that Gag Me Greta will be there to do one of her special strip tease numbers. ▼

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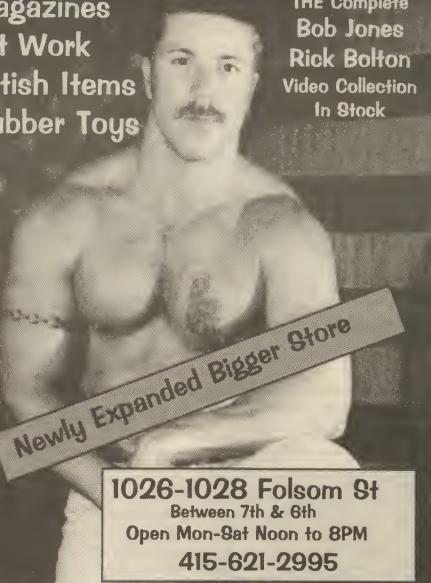
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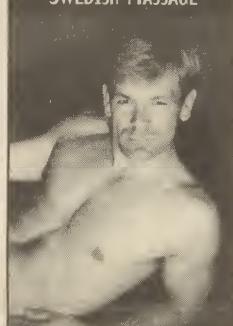
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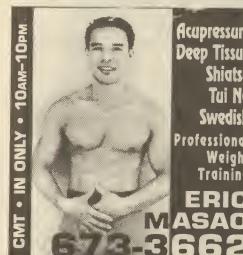
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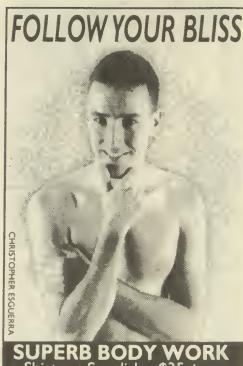
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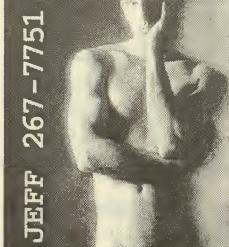
Deep-tissue, Swedish full-body erotic massage by yng bld BB trainer. Jeff \$45/in/out 550-6833 cert.

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No Nonsense Affair
A Professional Man
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A blissful, luxurious, ecstatic,
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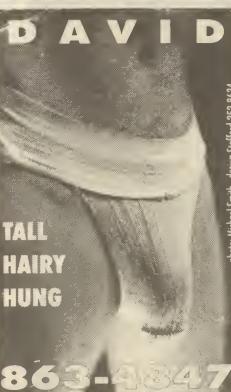
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Attractive, Chiseled Lk.
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Absolutely best built
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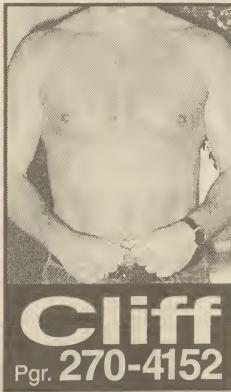
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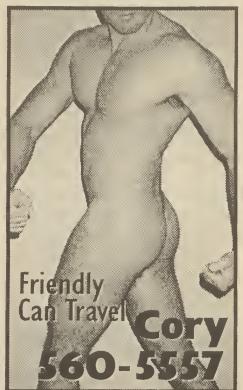
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Body Builder, 230 Lbs.
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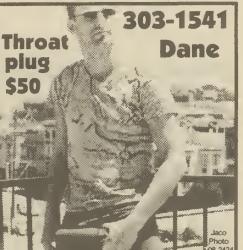


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Clean, Well-Built, Well-Defined
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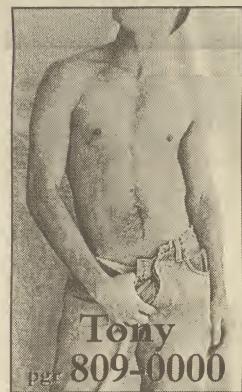
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Hot guy next door treats you right!
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Big hangers, Great Butt
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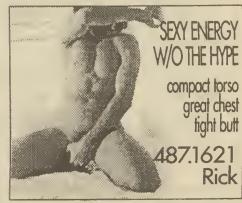
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MODELS/ESCAPES

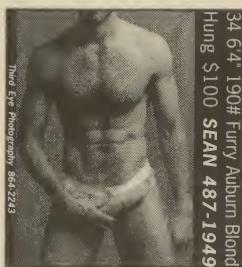
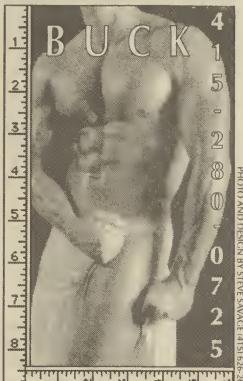
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XXX-tra Hot Bi-Yoke w/Fag
attitude. Strap-on, boyfriend, girl
friend & more, takes you where
you've never been - gently, firmly,
or fiercely. TJ & Friends
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Mature BB, Hard Abs, Beefy
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Young Students: 406-0447

DUAL ACTION!

Chris: All-American, 23, Tan,
Toned, Blond & Blue

Alex: Exotic Italian, 24, Long Blk
Hair & Green Eyes

Thin, Boyish, Great-
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24 Hrs * Chip * 303-2782* 24 Hrs

Young Beautiful blond w/ a

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6'7", 240#, Blue-eyed, extra
handsome, masculine jock
with 9" x 7" cut
quarter pounder
and low hangers

David 24 Hrs.
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PLEASURE TORTURE

Even if you are a complete beginner I can teach you how to relax
into new pleasures. No marks, no fluid exchange, no crude
caricatures of power and masculinity, just slow, sensual, creative
and safe pleasure-torture. If you've been curious about bondage
and sensual S&M go ahead and "risk" a call to a great teacher.

I'm short, built (5'7", 160 lbs., 29w, 42c, 16a) handsome,
dominant, and experienced, but relaxed.

ROGER 626-3034



Pro BB Outlaw Champ!

Chris aka Bull Stanton

As seen in mags, Muscle & Fitness,
Ironman, Flex, & on TV: ESPN,
star of Palm Drive Video
& Tom of Finland!

Hairy, 6'1", 260, 8x6
(48 sq inches of thrust).
Pose! Play! Verbal! Real & Fantasy!
Pump & Lick Worship!

"I want to know what makes
your eyes roll back. First-timers,
let me introduce you to my concept
of 'Home Entertainment Center.'
Fun! Friendly!

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BRENT

Classic good looks. The
quiet capable type.
Well-versed, energetic,
and dedicated to your
fantasy; this 6'8" tall,
37 y.o. kid sports size
15 sneakers and a
bountiful basket of
goods. Brown hair, big
biceps, green eyes & a
sensual mustache
inside. Wanna play?

280-0019
\$150/hr call back required.

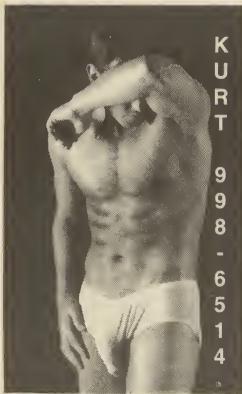
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Still 'Aint Sprung
Come 'N Get Your

SOUTHERN COMFORT

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of cowboy cheer & a slow
quiet star-filled night
with a sexy, studly, bucking
bronc and his big, hot,
smoking gun with plenty
of time to get it off
and unload it.

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TANNED & TONED
WITH A
BIG FAT
HARD ONE**
\$100
LEE 303-1505
6' 170# BR BLU
29 YR

F**k A Straight White Guy
(415) 207-9922
Jason, 28, 6'0", 170#

BIG THIK TOM
6', 240#, 52c, 20a, 771-5099

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HOT, HAIRY, DOMINANT

Experienced, Most Scenes

Fully Stocked Private Playroom



TOM 487-1296

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CLUB

Exclusive Male Escorts

FEATURING:

CHRISTIAN
Sweet, Young Eurasian,
Only 18!

BRIAN
All-American Blonde
21, Size 10"

Matthew
Amer-Asian Bodybuilder,
5'9", 215 lbs., Ripped

JAKE
Absolutly Perfect—GQ!
22, 5'11", 180, Brn, Hazel

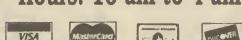
TYLER
All American Pretty Boy
21, 5'11", 170, Brn, Brn

SEAN
Tall, Handsome, Nordic God, Size 8"

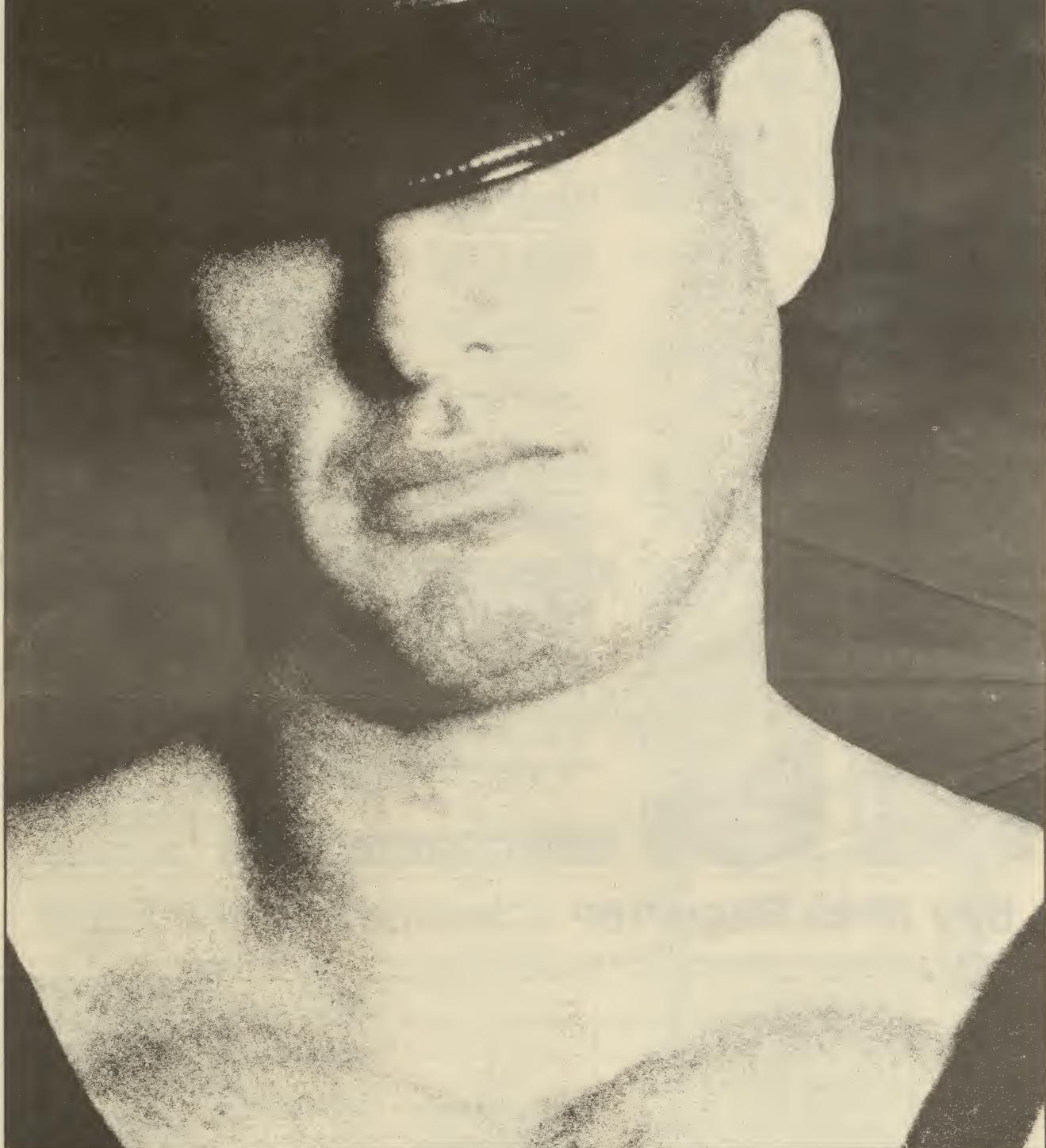
GLEN
Rugged, Handsome, All-American,
6'3", 200 lbs., 25

415. 346. 3311

Hours: 10 am to 4 am



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